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John Dunlop

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The autograph opposite is that
of John Dunlop Esq - Author of
the history of fiction

The writer of these letters was Mrs
Vigor who married first Thomas
Vand Esq Consul General of
Russia in 1731. Secondly
Claude Bondeau Esq, resident
at that Court & thirdly Mr William
Vigor - a Quaker - She died at
London Sept. 12. 1783 aged
84

These letters are justly characterized
by Nichols as "Highly interesting and
"entertaining" Let. Anecdotes Vol III
P 209 - The account of the Court
of Russia is very curious & the
secret history of it rather new
and amusing.



L E T T E R S
FROM A LADY,
WHO RESIDED SOME YEARS IN
R U S S I A,
TO
HER FRIEND IN ENGLAND.
WITH
HISTORICAL NOTES.

THE SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. DODSLEY, in PALL-MALL.

MDCCLXXVII.



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LETTERS, &c.

LETTER I.

Petersburgh, Feb. 1729-30.

Dear Madam,

YOU, who are mistress of so much philosophy, are excusable for fancying that, now the ceremony of our reception is over, I may be composed enough to give you some account of the place my rambling planet has thrown me into; but for me, who have strong passions, and that inseparable companion of them, weak reason, I cannot so soon forget my friends

B and

and country, but am (notwithstanding the mark I wore before my departure) feeling those passions with a double force that were restrained in the fatal hour of separation. However, as, I know, your good-nature (though you have no other notion of these female infirmities than to pity them in your friends) will make allowances for me, I will venture to give you some description of persons and things as they at present appear to me. Of the first I can only judge by sight, for the short time I have been here has not let me learn the language enough to have any conversation; so I can only say of the people, they are strong made, of a middle stature, and rather handsome than otherwise; but, I think, they have not much expression in their faces. As to Peterburgh, it is pleasantly situated on a fine

river called the Neva; in regard to North, East, West, or South, you must excuse me, (though you would know exactly.) It consists of three islands, on one stands the Admiralty, from which it takes its name; also the summer and winter palaces. The second is called Petersburgh-island, in which are the citadel and a fine church, wherein is interred the body of your hero, Peter the First, with his last empress, Catherine, and several of his children.* The third is called Basil's island, on which are the exchange, the market, and the courts of justice and trade (called here colleges) and other public buildings. Here the merchants were designed to live; but though the houses and streets are very handsome, they are mostly uninhabited, for the Admiralty island is by much the most

* All his successors also have since been interred there, except Peter III.

populous. The winter-palace is small*, built round a court, is far from handsome, has a great number of little rooms ill-contrived, and nothing remarkable either in architecture, painting, or furniture. The summer-palace is still smaller, and in all respects mean, except the gardens, which are pretty (for this country, fine) with a good deal of shade and water. The best idea I can give you of it is Boughton†. A mile from the town is the monastery of St. Alexander Newski‡.

* It has since been rebuilt by the empress Elizabeth, and is now very large and heavy.

† The duke of Montagu's seat in Northamptonshire.

‡ In this convent are deposited the pretended remains of that saint, for which the empress Elizabeth ordered a silver shrine to be made, which lies on a superb monument, covered with silver plates of a considerable thickness. The body of the late Peter III. was exposed there some days, to convince the people that

The legend of this saint I do not know, but the monastery was begun by Peter the First, and will be very fine, if ever it is finished, and he instituted an order in honour of this saint, called by his name, it is the second order, the ribbon red. The river Neva runs close to the gardens of

that he had not suffered any violence, but ended his life naturally. He was afterwards privately interred there.

This order was indeed instituted by Peter I. but the czarina Catherine first conferred it in the year 1725.

The two other orders are, that of St. Andrew, or the blue ribbon, the first and most honourable, instituted by Peter I. in 1698, in honour of St. Andrew, the patron of Russia; and the third is a female order, founded by Peter I. in 1717 in honour of his consort Catherine, and from her named the order of St. Catherine.

These honours, as Voltaire observes, command respect, cost the sovereign nothing, and flatter those who receive them, without adding to their power."

the monastery, and winds from the town in beautiful mæanders, such as your poetical genius would make a perpetual entertainment. There are many fine houses in the town belonging to the nobility, but now, in the absence of the court, quite empty; most of them have pretty gardens; near one of these I am placed, where I often walk, and think on all I left behind—but you cry out, “Away with weakness, and pursue your tale;” and I sigh, and obey—I am just returned from a ramble of a week; the company Mr. W. Mr. R. another gentleman, a lady, and myself. I wondered to hear our beds were to go, but was passive. We went the first day about twenty miles to see some paper-mills, but chiefly for the prospect, which is indeed delightful. There are no public houses; the man who has the care of the works, entertains all strangers, and
has

has an allowance for it from the government. He gave us a very good supper, and two empty rooms to lie in. Our lodging was straw, and our beds were laid upon it; and this was our accommodation all the time we were out. The next day we went to Peterhoff, a country-seat belonging to the czar. The palace is small, and stands on a hill sixty feet high, about half a mile from the sea. The valley between the palace and the sea is covered with a thick wood, which is cut into walks and alleys intermixed with jet d'eau and fountains. In the large vister at the front of the palace is a canal that runs into the sea; there are also several summer-houses * on the edge of the sea. The palace commands a prof-

* One of these summer-houses, famed for its curious painting, is distinguished by the name of *Mon plaisir, My delight*.

pect of the harbour of Cronstadt, and the coast of Finland; here are some good pictures, but much spoiled for want of care*. We are to set out for Moscow soon, from whence you may expect more impertinence from,

Dear Madam,

Yours, &c.

* Contiguous to the winter-palace (above-mentioned) the present empress has built a small one, called *The Hermitage*; in which are two galleries of paintings lately purchased at an immense expence in Italy, with the richest crown (perhaps) in Europe, and in the sceptre a diamond far larger than Pitt's, purchased by Prince Orlov in 1774 for about 120,000 l. sterling; and by him presented to his sovereign mistress.

LET-

LETTER II.

Moscow, April 1730.

Dear Madam,

ACCORDING to your commands, without preface, I shall give you some account of my journey from Peterburgh to this place. We set out on the 5th of March in sledges; they are like a cradle made of wood, and covered with leather. You lie down on a bed dressed and covered with furs: they hold but one person, which makes it very disagreeable, as you have no body to speak to. We travelled night and day; and arrived here on the 9th. You will say, I skip over the journey very fast; but what shall I say? Our accommodation was one little smoaky room, where we stopped to change horses,

horses, and eat what we brought with us; the people were civil to the utmost of their power, but one really sees human nature so debased, and the poor wretches so low and poor, that they seem to have only the figures of human creatures. Except at these cots, which are placed at proper distances for change of horses, you seem to pass through an uninhabited country, with not a town or house to be seen, but only thick woods, which, as they were covered with snow, was a pretty romantic scene, and I often fancied the snow on stumps and shrubs formed all sorts of figures; I saw bears, wolves, nay beaus among the branches of the trees, and often wished for you there, as you might have found a frozen lover of whom you need not have been afraid. I should beg pardon for saying we came through no town, for we

we passed through Novogrod * and Tweer. The first famous for the monastery of St. Anthony †, who, as they tell you, came from Padua on a millstone, and brought treasure enough to build this monastery. The town is mean, though large; the houses all of wood, low, and little: the outside of the monastery is far from fine; the inside I did not see. Tweer is a pretty clean town, situated on the side of a hill, on the bank of the Volga; the buildings are of wood, and very neat. I have not yet seen enough of this city where I now am, to give any description of it. The emperor ‡ is

* Grod, or Gorod, in the Russian language signifies "city."

† He died and was buried there in the year 1147.

‡ Peter II. who succeeded the empress Catherine in the year 1727, being then but twelve years

rarely seen, ^{and} has no drawing-room, and seems fond of nothing but hunting. His great favourite, prince Dolgorucki, keeps him employed in this

years old. He was grandson of Peter the Great, being the son of the czarowitz Alexis, who died in prison, after having received sentence of death for a conspiracy against his father, in 1718. During the minority of Peter II. his predecessor Catherine had appointed prince Menzikoff (the favorite of Peter the Great) generalissimo by land and sea, and had prevailed on the regency to agree to a marriage between one of his daughters and the young czar Peter. But this emperor, resolving to punish the prince for the injuries he had done his father, and being heartily seconded in this design by the lords of his court, Menzikoff himself unwarily sending them arms against him by his rapines, extortions, and even personal insolence to the czar, he was thereupon disgraced, and banished, and his immense estate confiscated. MODERN HIST. Vol. xiii. p. 265.

sport, for fear of being supplanted. Since this young monarch lost his only sister *, about six months ago (who had an uncommon understanding) he is entirely governed by this young nobleman, who has, I hear, nothing conspicuous but his title. I have been visited by several of Mr. W—'s old acquaintances, one of whom was a courtier in your hero's time. She is a sensible woman, and entertains me with many of his private adventures. The following one I will relate, though long, as, I think, it shews he was not so savage as some have represented him. He had a violent passion for an officer's daughter named

To exhibit at one view the imperial succession of the present reigning family, which is often mentioned in these letters, a genealogical table is added at the end of the volume.

* Princess Nathalia.

Munce,

Munce, and used more assiduous means to gain her than monarchs are generally forced to ; at last she yielded, and became his public mistress, and for many years he loved her with a fondness rarely found. One fatal day he went to see a castle he had built in the sea, attended by his own and the foreign ministers. At their return, the Polish minister, by some accident, fell over the draw-bridge, and was drowned, notwithstanding all endeavours to save him. The emperor ordered all the papers in his pockets to be taken out, and sealed up, before all the company. On searching his pockets, a picture dropped, which the emperor took up, and, judge his surprise, when he found it was the portrait of the lady. In a sudden gust of passion he tore open some of the papers, and found several letters from her written

to the deceased in the tenderest style. He left the company that instant, came alone to the apartment of my informant, and ordered her to send for the lady thither. When she entered, he looked the door on them three, and asked her how she came to write to such a person? She denied she had; he then produced the picture and letters, and when he told her of his death, she burst into tears, while he reproached her with ingratitude in such a storm of passion, that my author expected to see her murdered; but on a sudden, he also melted into tears, and said, he forgave her, since he so severely felt how impossible it was to conquer inclination; "for," he added, "notwithstanding you have returned my fondness with falsehood, I find I cannot hate you, though I do myself for the meanness of spirit I am guilty of;

“ of; but it would be quite despicable
 “ in me to continue to live with you;
 “ therefore he gone, while I can keep
 “ my passion within the bounds of
 “ humanity. You shall never want,
 “ but I will never see you more.” He
 kept his word, and soon after married
 her to one who had an employment at
 a distance, and was always kind to
 them in point of fortune. I insist on
 your reading this story to Mr. B—.
 Were he vested with this monarch’s
 power, what would you do? But I
 leave him to make use of the theme
 I have given him, and am, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R III.

Moscow, Nov. 4, 1730.

Dear Madam,

YOUR last letter is kind and cruel. You say a great many obliging things, give an account of many of my friends, but forbid me to say any thing of them, or ask any questions, but directly answer the enquiries you make. This is very tyrannical, but I must obey. As to your first question, what conversation I have? it is hard to answer. I daily converse with people of high rank. The Polish minister's lady has an assembly every night, where all the people of fashion meet; but to my great mortification, the greatest part meet to play, though no-body is pressed to it. As I still am

C

amazed

amazed how rational minds can fall into this trifling yet dangerous amusement; I need not tell you, I am a spectator, and moralize on human weakness, as, you know, Miss Bell used to tell me. For some time past I have met with a young lady who does not play, whether from the same stupid minds that I have, or from her heart being filled with a softer passion, I will not determine. She has softness, good-nature, good-sense, and politeness, inclosed in a pretty person of eighteen. She is sister to the favourite prince Dolghorucki. The German ambassador's brother is her beloved object; all things are agreed upon, and they only wait some forms necessary in his country, to be (I hope) happy. She seems very fond of marrying out of her own country, shews great civility to foreigners, and a strong love

love to him, and he to her. At this assembly you go away when you will, and no-body asks you a question: there is a supper for those that will stay, and, I fancy, one might find agreeable conversation, if cards were not known in Russia. Your next question about their religion, I can say but little of, as I speak very little of the language. It seems to consist in outward form and much superstition. I have seen a christening and a wedding: the child was dipped three times in a tub of water; the gossips had every one a wax candle in their hands: after the child had been dipped, the priest, (who, by the way, was very drunk) put on the shirt, and then exorcised it; and at the end of every sentence, he and the gossips spit, to shew they triumphed over the devil. The wedding was of one of my servants;

the match was proposed to the girl's parents, and they approving of it, came in form to ask my consent; when that was obtained, the man sent her a present, consisting of a comb, some pins, and patches; then he was admitted to see her for the first time; they gave each other a ring, and a promise of marriage, and the wedding was appointed for that day se'ennight. From that time to the day of the wedding, the girls of her acquaintance took turns to be with her night and day, continually singing songs to bemoan her loss out of their society: when the day came, they took a formal leave of her with many tears; and the man's relations came to fetch her, and her fortune, which was a bed and bedding, a table, and a picture of her patron saint. My own maid was admitted to go with her, which was a great

the match was proposed to the girls
 great favour, for none of the women's
 friends are permitted to go with them.
 As to the rest, I must refer you to the
 Bible, to satisfy your curiosity, and
 that I may not hinder you from so good
 a study, I'll take my leave.

they gave each a promise of marriage, and a
 promise of marriage, and a promise of marriage.
 was appointed to be the bridegroom.
 From that time to the day of the wedding,
 the bride and bridegroom remained
 took turns to go with her night and
 day, and the bridegroom was to be
 more than the bride, and the bride
 when the bridegroom took a formal
 leave of her, and the bridegroom
 man's relation to the bride, and
 her former, which was a bed and
 bedding, a table, and a picture of her
 face, and a mirror. My own maid was
 named to go with her, which was a

L E T T E R IV.

Moscow, Dec. 20, 1738.

Dear Madam,

YOU are not like to be quit of my
 impertinence, though you have
 so long let me languish in vain for a
 line from you. Since my last, here
 has been a surprizing alteration. The
 young monarch (at his favourite's in-
 stigation, as is supposed) has declared
 his resolution of marrying the pretty
 princess Dolghorucki mentioned in
 my last. What a cruel disappoint-
 ment to two people whose whole hearts
 were engaged ! but this is a country
 where there is no refusal to be made.
 Two days ago was the ceremony of his
 declaring it publicly, or, as they call
 it, being promised. She was brought
 the day before to a nobleman's house
 near

near the palace, where she is to stay till she is married. Every person of fashion was invited, and the company were placed on benches in a large room, the officers of the crown and natives of distinction on one side, and the foreign ministers and foreigners of fashion on the other. At the upper end of the room was a canopy, with two armed chairs under it, and an altar before them, on which lay a Bible. A great number of the clergy were placed on each side of the altar, when every body was placed, the emperor came into the room, and talked to some people a few minutes; she was brought from the house, where she lodged, in one of his coaches, with her mother and sister in the coach with her; her brother, as lord high chamberlain, went in a coach before, and a great train of the emperor's coaches

followed. Her brother handed her to the door of the room, where her imperial lover received her, handed her to one of the chairs, and seated himself in the other. The pretty victim (for so I think her) was dressed in a stiffened bodied gown of silver tissue; her hair curled, and four tresses, with a great many jewels, and a little coronet at the top of her head; her train was very long, and not supported; her looks were composed, but very melancholy and pale. After they had sat some time, they rose and went to the altar, where he declared he took her as his wife; he then gave her his ring, and she gave him another, and he tied his picture on her right wrist: then they kissed the Bible, the archbishop of Novogorod made a short prayer, and the emperor saluted her. When they were seated again,

he

He named the officers and ladies of her court, and desired they would then go into waiting. They came to kiss her hand; the lover held her right hand in his, and gave it to every one as they came up, for all the company paid that compliment; at last, to the surprise of every body, came the unhappy forsaken swain: before, he had sat all the time with her eyes fixed on the floor, but now she started, snatched her hand out of the emperor's, and gave it the other to kiss, having, at that instant, ten thousand different passions painted in her face. The young monarch blushed, but a crowd of others came to pay their devoirs, and the friends of the gentleman got him out, put him into a sledge, and got him out of town as fast as possible. The thing was rash and imprudent to the last degree, and, I dare say, a sur-

prize to her. The young monarch
 began the ball with her, which soon
 ended, to her great relief, as I judge,
 for all her composure was gone after
 this rash action, and she had nothing
 but fear and distraction in her looks.
 After the ball was ended, she was con-
 ducted back to the same house, but
 she now went in the emperor's body-
 coach, with the imperial crown on the
 top, and alone, attended by guards.
 But you will blame me for giving no
 description of the emperor. He is
 very tall, and large-made, for his age,
 being but just turned of fifteen; he is
 fair, but much tanned with hunting;
 has good features, but a down look,
 though he is young and handsome,
 nothing attractive nor agreeable.
 He is dressed in a light-coloured
 uniform with silver. Thus
 he now looked on as an em-
 press,

press, and yet, I fancy, if one could see her heart, all her grandeur does not ease the pains of a disappointed passion; and indeed it must be a mean soul that can quit love, or friendship, for dominion. Do not give way to idleness, but remember there is such a creature as, &c.

LET-

[28]

LETTER V.

Moscow, Feb. 1730-1.

Dear Madam,

THE anxiety you have been under for me is very kind, and I should sooner have relieved you, had the post been allowed to pass. I send this by a messenger that is dispatched by a minister, as not knowing how one by the post may fare; though now all things seem in the old channel. When I last wrote, all the world (that is, our world) were preparing for the great wedding; this went on, fixed for the nineteenth of January. On the sixth of January is always a great ceremony which they call "blessing the waters," in imitation of our Saviour's being baptised by St. John.

It

It is customary for the sovereign to be present at the head of the troops, who are drawn out on the ice, that day. The poor, pretty empress elect was to be seen that day in public. She went by my house with guards, and a train, as pompous as can be imagined. She was by herself in an open sledge, dressed as she was at the ceremony of her being contracted; and (according to the gallantry of this country) the emperor stood behind her sledge. It was the coldest day I ever felt, and I dreaded going to court to dinner, where every body was invited and assembled to receive the young sovereigns on their return. They were upon the ice among the troops four hours. As soon as they got into the room, the emperor complained of the head-ach; this was at first taken to proceed from the cold; but on repeated

peared complaints; his physician was called, who said he must go to bed, for he was very ill. This broke up all the company. The princess had all the day a melancholy composure, which had no alteration on this accident; and she took leave of her acquaintance, as she met them, with a serious affability (if I may so express it.) The next day the small pox appeared on the emperor, and on the nineteenth, the day appointed for his marriage, about three in the morning, he died. I believe, most people in the town sat up that night, at least we did, as it was known in the evening how ill he was, and no one could tell what would be the consequence, as there might have been great disputes about the succession*. About nine

* According to the will of the empress Catherine, her eldest daughter Anne Petrowna, dutchess

the next morning the dutchess dowager of Courland was proclaimed empress. She is the second daughter of czar John, Peter the First's eldest brother. This czar John left three daughters. The eldest is married to the duke of Mecklenburgh, and on his being driven out of his dominions, she came back hither, where she now is with her only

dutcheß of Holstein, ought to have been called to the throne, but she died the year after her mother, and left behind her a son, (afterwards the unfortunate Peter III.) who was then about two years old. The prospect of so long a minority determined the senate and nobility to set aside Catherine's will, under pretence of its being vacated by a declaration of the late emperor, who, they said, had appointed, on his death-bed, another successor; though at first they could not agree who they should declare this successor to be: by which it was very manifest, that, notwithstanding their assertions, the young emperor, in reality, made no such declaration. *Modern Hist. Vol. xiii. p. 265.*

daughter.

laughed. The second was married to the late duke of Courland, who did not live above six weeks after his marriage; and she has continued a widow. The third is still here, unmarried. As all the male heirs of Peter the First are extinct, they have gone to the female heirs of his eldest brother; and the reason they did not take the eldest sister was because she has a husband, and a turbulent one. The new empress is in Courland, but is soon expected here. I fancy, your goodnature is alarmed about the poor young lady who was torn from the man she loved, and is now deprived of even the poor recompence of grandeur. I am told, she bears it heroically. She says, "she mourns the loss as a member of the empire, as a private person she rejoices, since his death has freed her from greater tortures, than the greatest

" greatest tyrant, or the most artful
 " cruelty, could invent." In regard
 to her future fortune she is very indif-
 ferent. As she imagines her inclina-
 tions will be forced, all bodily suffering
 she can bear with ease. A gentleman,
 who has seen her, gave me this account
 of her conversation with him. He
 says, he found her quite abandoned,
 with only one maid and a footman,
 who had attended her from her
 childhood; when he shewed some
 indignation at it, she said, " Sir, you
 " do not know our country;" and to
 what I have already mentioned she
 added, that " from her youth and in-
 nocence, and the known goodness
 " of the successor, she hoped she should
 " not have any public insult, and pri-
 " vate penury would be nothing; for
 " her mind was filled with one object,
 " which would make any kind of soli-

"tude agreeable to her." Finding he
 seemed to think she meant her former
 lover by the "one object" she men-
 tioned, she hastily added, that "she had
 forbid her heart to think of him
 from the moment it had become
 criminal for her to have thought of
 him, but she meant her family;
 whose conduct, she was sensible,
 would be censured; and she could
 not divest herself of natural affec-
 tion, though they had made her a
 sacrifice for what would now prove
 their ruin." You, dear madam,
 who always think so rightly, have no
 need of such a scene to make you re-
 flect how trifling are all our worldly
 pursuits; that every hour of our lives,
 tells us how frail and frivolous are
 our joys; and it should comfort us,
 under all disappointments, to think
 that nothing in this world is of long
 duration.

duration. But if I indulge this style, I shall grow dull, and it is lucky that I am told the messenger stays; so I shall only add, we are under no apprehensions for our lives, or effects, now; and that while we (at least I), were so, I behaved with more resolution than you would think, as you know the cowardice of, &c.

LETTER VI.

Moscow, 1731.

Dear Madam,

I Thank you for the chairs. They are very pretty, and I am hard at work; but since you command, I shall continue my long letters to you, though I wonder you should desire more than two lines after you have had so many tedious epistles, which I fancy to be like Gabriel John, that has a preface, and a postscript, and a little something between, wherein the principal part of the book comes in by the bye. You ask me, how I spend my time? I'll give you a journal of one day: and so few incidents happen to make any variation, that you may guess, by that, what I have been doing ever

ever since I left the neighbourly society. I rise at six, so ungenteel I am grown; have done looking about, and giving orders in the family, to come to breakfast, by eight; when that is over, I spend an hour with my instructor in French; then retire to my room, and either work, or read, till twelve, when I dress for dinner at one; after dinner, we chat a little; then I work, or read again, till six, when we either go out to take the air in the coach, or walk till eight; at which hour we always sup, and go to bed at ten. And this is pretty near a constant circle; unless sometimes going from seven to eight to the assembly I have mentioned in some of my letters. The country about this city is fine; woods, water, and corn-fields compose a sweet landscape. As the gentlemen have much more conversation than women,

they are often engaged; so that I frequently drive out by myself, to all appearance, but at those times your ladyship is my constant companion; in one of these rambles we found out a house which was formerly prince Menzikoff's; tho' now uninhabited:

This prince, Peter the Great's favourite, was originally servant to a pastry-cook, Peter, hearing him cry puffs and sing ballads, was diverted with one of them, and sending for him, asked him if he would sell his pies and his basket. The boy answered, that his business was to sell his pies, but he must ask his master's leave to sell his basket, yet as every thing belonged to his prince, his majesty had only to lay his commands upon him." The czar was so pleased with this answer, that he immediately ordered him to court, where he gave him at first a mean employment: but being every day more pleased with his wit, he placed him about his person, and made him groom of his bed-chamber, from whence he gradually rose to the highest employments,

it stands in a fine lawn, with a large pond before and another behind it; the lawn is surrounded by a thick wood through which there is no regular walk, but through several windings quite natural, you pop into the lawn. Here we often alight and walk; but I have one alloy to that pleasure, a vast many frogs. You cry, "What affectation! to be afraid of a poor frog!" but consider, that I can no more conquer my aversion to them, than you can yours to an importunate toad, though, I really believe, neither of them design to hurt us. There are a great number of monasteries about this city, within three or four or five miles; they are very old, but monks, and at length acquired such knowledge and skill, as to become one of the bravest and most successful generals in Russia. For an account of his subsequent disgrace and banishment, see p. 12, note.

not fine. Some of them have one
piece of magnificence, that the spires
and towers are gilt on the outside,
This must have been very expensive,
and they have generally great riches
within their chapels. I have been to
visit the abbot of one of them, who
entertained us very civilly with coffee,
tea, and sweetmeats. At last he said,
he must treat us after the manner of
his country, and then we had a table
spread with pease, beans, turnips,
carrots, &c. all faw, and mead, ale,
and brandy; in short, Monsieur
L'Abbé was a gay, good-natured
man, and we spent an afternoon very
agreeably. About three miles from
hence is a nunnery for ladies of qua-
lity*, which is the emper's dowager's,
as she is now called, but I mean Peter

* The convent *des filles nobles*.

the First's first wife *. As soon as her grandson came to the throne, the less

* This lady was born at Moscow in the year 1670. Her name was Eudoxia Fiodorowna, it is difficult to say which were superior, the beauties of her person, or those of her mind. She was married to Peter in the year 1689, and had by him the czarowitz Alexis, and several other children who died young. After being repudiated, she was confined in the monastery of Spidal, thirty miles from Moscow, where she was obliged to take the vows under the order of St. Basil. On the accession of Catherine she was removed to Schlusselfurg *, where she was imprisoned in a dungeon, from which she was not released till her grandson Peter II. ascended the throne. She died in 1737. For several more curious particulars of this unfortunate empress, see her history in the chevalier D'Eon's *Literary Amusements* lately published, which in general agrees with that here given in Letter VII.

* A strong fort on a small island in the middle of the Neva, taken by Peter I. in 1702, and so styled by him as the key (Schlusfel) of his conquests.

the

the monastery, where she had been long confined as a prisoner, for this, where she has a regular court as dowager. She and all the nuns go out when they will, but in their habits. I expect a description of that sweet habitation, where, I suppose, this will find you, as I was so often disappointed of seeing it, though so civilly invited by the generous owner, to whom I am, as well as to you, madam, &c.

LETTER VII.

Moscow, 1731

Dear Madam,

YOU seem quite impatient to know the history of the empress dowager. Those things are so differently related, according as affection or interest leads, that it is hard to judge of the truth; but the following account is, I believe, a pretty just one. Her name is Eudoxia, of the noble family of Lapuchin. The czar married her when he was very young*, and by her had one son†, who was afterwards put to death, but left a son and daughter behind him. After some years

* He was then 17. † Alexis, czarowitz.
See the genealogical table at the end.

marriage, he grew weary of her, and pretended jealousy; she was, on this suspicion, confined, and all her nearest relations, and several of the gentlemen of her court, taken up, and, according to the custom of this country, examined by torture; but none of them accused her, though they had offers of pardon, if they would. These examinations lasted some months, in which time about fourteen of her nearest relations were put to death; and one of her gentlemen*, of whom Peter had the greatest suspicion, underwent such repeated tortures as it was thought no creature could have borne, with great constancy, persisting in his own and her innocence during his torments. At last the czar himself came to him, and offered him pardon, if he would

* Glebow, an officer in the neighbourhood of Rostoff.

confels. He spit in the czar's face, and told him, "He would disdain to speak to him, but he thought himself obliged to clear his mistress, who was as virtuous a woman as any in the world; and (said he) the only weakness I knew her guilty of, is loving thee, thou inhuman butcher; and if any thing can make me think thee more a devil than thy cruel treatment of her, it is fancying I could ever be brought to accuse an innocent person to save myself; for could my body hold out these torments as long as thou shalt plague the world, I could suffer them with pleasure, rather than relieve them by such falsehood." After this, he

Mr. D'Ron says, "the poor mangled body in expiring, opened its mouth only to spit in his face, saying, 'Go, tyrant, and let me die in peace.'"

would

would speak no more. And when no confession could be got from him, he was beheaded; and she confined in a monastery at a distance, without being suffered to see any one but the person who brought her food, which she dressed herself, for she had no servant to do the most slavish offices, nor more than one cell for her person. Just before he married the empress Catherine, she was said to be dead, and was believed to be so, till her grandson came to the throne, and then she appeared at court, though she would not live there; but retired to this monastery, where she has a court and appointments as dowager, but will not quit her nun's habit. What va-

* Situated on the lake Ladoga; from whence she was removed to Schlüsselburg, on the accession of Catherine.

rious

rious scenes of misery has this unfortunate princess experienced, and finally the hardest must be the death of the late young monarch, her grandson, as that sudden loss came when she seemed to have surmounted her greatest difficulties. The present empress pays her great respect, and often goes in person to visit her. She was present at the coronation, in a box built on purpose, where she could not be seen. When the ceremony was over, the empress went into the box to her, embraced her, kissed her, and desired her friendship, and they both shed tears. As she came privately into the church before the ceremony began, so she stayed some time after, till her coach could come up, for she would not appear at the dinner, on account of her habit. Several people expressed a desire to pay their compliments to her while she

stayed

stayed in the church, and she admitted
 it. You may guess, your humble
 servant was among them; and I had
 luckily an opportunity of looking a
 great deal at her, for being that day
 in the English dress (for reasons too
 long and trifling to repeat) she asked,
 "who I was," and desired me to come
 near, that she might look at my dress.
 She said, "she had heard that England
 "was famous for pretty women, and
 "she believed they were so, for the
 "dress was not calculated to add to
 "their beauty, particularly that of
 "the head, but she thought the rest of
 "the dress very pretty, and much
 "more decent than any she had seen,
 "as it did not shew the neck so
 "much:" said many flattering things
 of my person, shape, &c. and invited
 me to her court, the arts and man-
 ners of which, you see, she has not
 forgot.

but, alas ! I have not one grain, though I hourly strive to arm my mind to support the shock I dread with decency. Now I doubly feel the absence of my friends, and yours in particular, whose tenderness and strength of reason would soothe and argue me into a little fortitude. Chance has brought me acquainted with a gentleman and his wife, who are very kind ; they hardly ever leave me, and as he is easy with them about him, relieve me by nursing sometimes while I sleep, and are now both with him, that I may go to bed, which I have not done these three nights, but caught this moment, before I enjoy that rest, to assure you, that, in all vicissitudes, I am, &c.

LETTER IX.

Moscow, 1731.

Dear Madam,

I Am greatly obliged to you for the kind concern you express for me. I am better in health than I could expect; but dare not tell you the state of my mind: your sentiments are so much above the weakness of human nature, that you can hardly allow afflictions the weakness, that will attend on those whose minds are formed for soft passions; for yours, though very humane, I look on as of the masculine kind, and when you are afflicted, you would scorn the womanish relief of tears; though you might allow less minds that childish folly in the first attack of sorrow, yet you would expect,

pect, after the first transport of passion was over, that reason, resolution, and resignation should take place. I will admire your way of thinking, but do now (as I long have done) despair of being able to follow your example. I am engaged in a vast deal of business, so hope, if I am not so regular a correspondent, you will forgive me. I flatter myself with the pleasing prospect of returning to England next summer, and then your conversation will, I hope, form my mind to submission, and teach me to behave as I ought, in order to preserve the title of, &c.

LET-

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En. On the day, 1892, ...

LETTER X.

222

Moscow, 1721

Moscow, 1731.

Dear Madam,

I Have as punctually obeyed your injunctions of constantly thinking of you, as I have accepted of your indulgence of not answering your letter while my load of business lasted. When it will decrease I can give no guess, for, I think, it increases, and I have hardly time to recommend the bearer, Mr. H—, to your friendship and countenance, as he is a stranger to our country and language. He is that friend I mentioned who was so good to me in Mr. W—'s illness. His wife stays with me, during his residence in England, which will be

100

13

DO

no longer than a family affair obliges him. He has great good-nature, and a good deal of humour, and, I think, will entertain you. To him I refer you for all questions you may ask about

Yours, &c.

LETTER XI

Moscow, 1733

Dear Madam,

I Am, in the first place, to return
 you thanks for the civility you
 shew to my friend. I imagined his
 conversation would please you, and as,
 I find, I am not mistaken, can hardly
 repent the sending him, though he has
 very ill requited the happiness I pro-
 cured him of your acquaintance by
 the idle story he has told you of the
 gentleman you were so merry about,
 or, I should rather say, so grave, for
 I almost think you in earnest; though
 I would not willingly think so, be-
 cause it would make me angry. You
 say, "you hope soon to with me joy,
 "as, you hear, the gentleman has a
 "title,

"title, a ribbon, a pompous equipage, and a great estate." Can you have so mean, so contemptible a thought of me, to imagine these would be of any weight? To me these have no charms, unless that tender monitor, the heart, attends the choice of the person who is to confer the honour; and when that soft dictator is reluctant, or silent, it must be either a sordid soul, or a very trifling mind, that can be charmed with what is so often the decoration of a fool or knave. Not that I would be understood to mean any reflection on the person in question. I believe the man has great merit; so, I think, had my grandfather, but I should not have thought of marrying him. I fancy, by this time, you think there is some truth in this affair, since I seem to fire a good deal upon it. I own there is, so far that he has run.

run through all the nonsense all men (except very few who think above the vulgar) believe pleases our sex, and has really taken pains to convince me he has an affection; a thing I should not have expected from one of his country, as they are not used to ladies who either expect or desire that to be an ingredient in matrimony, nor do they know what it means, but when they find an estate and title, go through all that is to follow with great indifference, and would wonder what you meant by saying you would not marry a man because you could not love him, for they have no idea what you mean by the word. Some grave lectures I have had on this occasion convince me that our own country produces people who think like them, and a mind, well-adorned with what is commonly called "worldly," seems to think

think all considerations, but fortune, romantic. I long to tell you a story, to give you a specimen of the delicacy of our northern beaux and belles; but your prudery, (I beg pardon, your prudence,) frights me; however, I cannot resist; so pop your fan before your face, for I am going to begin. Here is a young fellow of fashion, who has made the tour of France, &c. &c. At his return he felt in company with three or four pretty women at a friend's house, where he danced, sung, laughed, was very free with the ladies, and behaved *à la mode de Paris*; as he assured the gazing audience of his airs, his next stop was his bragging of their fondness for him, and the passion with which he had inspired each of them; this he repeated in all companies, till at last it reached the ears of *Messieurs leurs maris* (for they were all married women).

women) who looked glum for some time in silence, and at last in a surly way expressed the cause of their ill-humour in plain terms. The ladies desired he might be brought with them before the husbands; so all these loving couples agreed that one of the nymphs should invite him to sup at her house, without saying who was to be there: he flew on the wings of love to the rendezvous, and was received with great gaiety; but in the height of his raptures, she reproached him with the speeches he had made; he denied them; on which all the ladies and their husbands came in, witnesses of his guilt were produced, and he fairly convicted. The husbands pronounced sentence, which was, that the ladies should whip him; some say, they actually did so; others say, they ordered their maids to do it; that the punishment

ment was inflicted with so much rigour, as to oblige him to keep his bed some days, is certain; but whether the ladies were executioners, or spectators only, is a doubt. By this, judge of the state of gallantry in this northern climate.

Adieu, &c.

LET-

LETTER XII.

Moscow, 1732.

Dear Madam,

MR. H— is so full of raptures, that he talks only of you. His wife tells me she grows jealous, so pray take care; you have heard what punishments are the mode here on these occasions; and though, I believe, she would no more have thought of such a thing than you or I, when she first came, who knows what examples may do? and as she talks of going to England, take care of yourself. Do you really expect an answer to the question you ask? Whether you do or not, I will give as true a one as I can; which is, that I am yet wavering; and cannot tell what will be the consequence,

quence. I think the person has merit, good-sense, (as far as I am a judge) with great good-nature and evenness of temper, if living in the house with him can inform me of his disposition. He is greatly esteemed by his own sex; but that, they say, is no motive of ours in our choice, so whether I shall act contrary to (what they say) the rest of my sex do, I cannot tell. I own, I highly esteem and value him; so I leave you to guess at the event, which, at present, I have not resolved upon. They say the court will go to Petersburg this winter; if so, my affairs will oblige me to follow them. You are very inquisitive, and I can say little to satisfy you, for I have not gone into any public place since my present state. The Dolghorucki family are all banished*, and the poor empress of the

* The princes Dolghorucki and their faction, who took upon them the management of the
suc-

day with them. They are gone to the very place where prince Menzikoff's children are. So the two ladies who were successively contracted to the young czar may chance to meet in banishment. Would not this make a pretty story for a tragedy? It is said, Menzikoff's children are recalled, and the same guards that carry these people are to bring them back. If this be true, it is generous, as their father

succession, assigned the new empress a council, framed a new constitution for the empire, and limited her authority as they thought proper; to which regulations she readily consented. But as soon as she was fixed upon the throne, she cancelled all these limitations, and banished the authors of them. MODERN HIST. Vol. xiii p. 265.

Among other charges they were accused of forging a will of the emperor Peter II. in favour of the princess Catherine his betrothed wife.

was

was so implacable an enemy to the present czarina, that he even treated her with personal ill manners and language. You will perhaps wonder at the banishing women and children, but here, when the master of a family is attacked, the whole family is involved in his ruin, all estates belonging to them are seized, they are sunk from nobles to the condition of the meanest of people, and if one misses any that used to be in public, no-body enquires after them : sometimes we hear they are demolished, but when once in disgrace, they are never mentioned. If by good luck they are restored to favour, they are then caressed as usual, but no mention of what has past. But I am now telling you what you have heard a hundred times, and can say nothing of this place but you have heard related to much more advantage ;

F

but

but you oblige me, by repeated commands, to weary you with trifling observations, of which I am ashamed, but trust your friendship that you only amuse yourself with them, but do not shew or read them to any one, lest you expose, &c.

[67]

but you oblige me by repeated com-
mends to weary you with trifling ob-
servations, of which I am ashamed, but
you will find them only amuse yourself with them, but
do not show or read them to any one.
Moscow, 1793

Dear Madam,

IT will be no surprise to you to see
that I have changed my name,† since
you seemed to be so sure how the un-
certainty I was under in my last would
terminate. I expect you should be
much obliged to me for writing so soon,
as I am much engaged with the cere-
mony of visits, and making the first
appearance at court, and preparing for
our journey to Petersburg, which we
propose to begin in ten days. Mr. H—
and his lady go along with us, which
will make the journey the more tole-
rable; for as the court is going, we

† upon her marriage with Charles Bondeau F 2 cannot

cannot have post-horses, so must lye
in those cots I have before described,
and shall be twelve days on the road.
Company interrupts me, so must, till
I get to Peterburgh, take my leave,
&c.

Dear Madam, I have drawn in
the style (and I am sure you will be
pleased to see it) but since you have
engaged in reading it, I must beg
to expect me to be at your service
joinings were made, and I have
arrived, and I have been having
from you, and I have been having
Grange, and I have been having
every thing in the world in the
I have been having every thing in the
— I have been having every thing in the
I have been having every thing in the
But

LET-

cannot have post-horses, to must the
bedside, I have before described
in those cases I have before described
and that of twelve on the road.
Company in the morning, and to must
leave, I have before described, I have before described
1733: I

Dear Madam;

1738

THE picture you have drawn in
imagination of my new "lord
" and master " (as you are pleased to
style him) has a great resemblance;
but since you suppose me so much en-
gaged in tender passions, how can you
expect me to tell you what public re-
joicings were made on her majesty's
arrival, and so many other things? In
short, you have all the curiosity of
grandame Eve, though you have ef-
fected the pains intailed upon it, while
I can no longer hide my being likely
to feel those pains. This, Mr. H—
tells me, he told you some time ago.

THE

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But

But to obey your orders, I here quietly
 was met at two miles from the city by
 all the members of the courts of justice,
 the land and sea officers, the foreign
 merchants, the members of the law
 academy, and foreign ministers. She
 passed under five triumphal arches
 built on this occasion. She then went
 to church, and after having been some
 time at her devotions, she got again
 into her coach, and went in the same
 pomp to the palace, where several
 speeches were made to congratulate
 her arrival. When this was over, she
 went to dinner, and there dined at the
 table with her the ministers of the first
 rank of her own court and their wives,
 and the foreign ministers and their
 wives, about eighty people in all.
 There were tables in other rooms for
 the rest of the company, and in the
 evening a ball. Now I have had time
 and

and opportunity to observe the people about court, to begin with the head, the czarina; she is about my height, but a very large made woman, very well shaped for her size, and easy and graceful in her person. She has a brown complexion, black hair, dark and blue eyes; she has an awfulness in her countenance that strikes you at first sight, but when she speaks, she has a smile about her mouth that is inexpressibly sweet. She talks a good deal to every body, and has such an affability in her address, that you seem talking to an equal; and yet she does not for one moment, drop the dignity of a sovereign. She seems to have great humanity, and is, I think, what one would call a fine, agreeable woman, were she a private person. Her sister, the duchess of Mecklenburgh, has a fine face, a good complexion,

plexion, black eyes and hair, but is short and fat, and no way a good person. She is gay, and has a great deal of satirical wit. They neither of them speak anything but Russ, but both understand a person that speaks German. The maiden sister died a little before the court came from Moscow. She was very ill when I saw her, but very handsome. The dutchess of Mecklenburgh's daughter, whom the czarina has adopted, and is now called the princess Anne *, is a child, not very handsome, and has such a natural bashfulness, that no judgment can be formed what she will be. She has as fine a woman, in all respects, for her governess, as, I think, can be found.

* Soon after married to prince Anthony of Brunswick Wolfenbützel (See Letters XXXVI. and XXXVII.) by whom she had the unfortunate czar, Ivan (or John) III.

The

The princess Elizabeth, who, as you know, is daughter of Peter the First, is very handsome. She is very fair, with light brown hair, large sprightly blue eyes, fine teeth, and a pretty mouth. She is inclinable to be fat, but is very genteel, and dances better than any one I ever saw. She speaks German, French, and Italian, is extremely gay, and talks to every body in a very proper manner, in the circle, but shews the ceremony of a court not like a child. She was crowned empress in 1741, on the deposition of John III. (then an infant) grandson to the duke and dutches of Mecklenburgh, and immediate successor to the empress Anne. The empress Elizabeth died Jan. 5, 1762, leaving the crown to her nephew Charles Peter, grand duke of Russia, and duke of Holstein-Gottorp, afterwards Peter III. whose deposition and catastrophe are well known. The princess Catherine of Anhalt-Zerbst (the present empress) was married to him in 1760.

Count Biron* and his lady are the greatest favourites of her majesty, so much that they are considered as if the power was lodged in them. He is lord high chamberlain, and has a good person, but a look that is forbidding, though, I believe, that does not affect his mind any more than it did in poor Sir Thomas Wy—, for he endeavours with affability enough. The countess is a little woman, very fine, so much ill pitted with the small pox, that she is scarcely seen, but has the finest neck I ever saw. The dutchess of Mecklenburgh and the princess Elizabeth have each their own court in separate houses,

* A native of Courland, of mean extraction, whom the empress caused to be elected duke of Courland after the death of Ferdinand, the last prince of the house of Kettler. For a farther account of him and his lady, see Letters XXVIII. and XXIX.

things they keep his drawing room, but come to that of the czarina. Their way of passing company is by your sending to know when you may be admitted, and on their birth-day, &c. they sit in company at home in the morning, and at the czarina's court in the evening. The princess Anne is lodged in the palace, — as the czarina's daughter. Our drawing-room is more like an assembly; there is a circle in form, for about half an hour; then the czarina and the princesses make their party at cards, and every body that pleases make their own party; but I fancy you wish I was engaged in one now, and that I would bid you adieu, &c.

but time does wonders. I am also
practising a proper stile as " Yes "
the name of the letter is " **LETTER XV.** "
some say, indeed, she is very fast-
talking, but I do not believe it any
more than that she is in love with
Petersburgh, 1733.

Dear Madam, " Mr. — "

I Am now able to give your some ac-
count of myself with my own hand;
though really I look so pale and thin,
that if you were to see me, I fancy
you would not know your old friend,
especially as Mr. H— informed you
some time ago that I was grown a
prude. That is so far from a natural
character in me, that I still walk in
trammels, and I still want the toss of
the head and the contemptuous smile
at the behaviour of younger people,
and that emphatical shrug of the
shoulders at the levity of young flirts,
which are necessary to the character;

but

but time does wonders. I am also practising a proper stile as, " Yes, " she is handsome, and has sense : " some say, indeed, she is very satirical, but I do not believe it any more than that she is in love with " Mr. ——" " The world is very " malicious " (of another), " she may " mean no harm, but young people " should be cautious, though the gen- " tlemen say she does all things right. " I wish her well, and do not say this " to make any reflection, &c." But now I have said all this, I am almost afraid to trust even you; for should you betray me, how I should be de- tained! I hope better things from your discretion, but I am still of the same mind (that you know I always was) to fear the satire of my own sex, for we are unmerciful enemies, and, it must be allowed, the other sex treat

and 7 us

us with more humanity than we do one
 another; so if you gave me up for treat-
 ing your order a little too freely, I
 beg it may not be to ladies, for then
 I expect no quarter. But I am strongly
 tempted to tell you why he says I am
 grown a pride; though, I own, the
 story ought to be concealed, and if I
 did not trust to your delicacy that re-
 ceives it a secret, should not venture
 to tell you. In our journey from
 Moscow Mrs. H. and I had a great
 longing for clean linen, after we had
 been some days on the road, and
 coming to one of our huts to halt,
 where we saw only women, we begged
 our gentlemen to walk, while we put
 on clean linen: they did so, and I had
 just shifted myself, and she was going
 to do the same, when she looked up,
 and saw a Ross fellow lying asleep on
 the stove (which they often do in cold
 weather)

weather) she squalled at the sight of
 him, which brought her husband and
 mine into the room, as fearing some
 insult. They made themselves so
 merry with their being turned out,
 and this sweet swain being (as they
 said) admitted to our toilet, that I
 was piqued, and turned quite grave on
 their raillery; and ever since he has
 called me prude, and I sometimes as-
 sume the character to restrain the re-
 dundancy of gaiety his country is sub-
 ject to. Methinks I hear you cry out,
 "Was the man really asleep?" Why,
 indeed, I believe he was, at least he
 looked so stupid, that it was the same
 thing. This letter is the right tittle-
 tattle of a gossiping, and is therefore
 in character, for though it is three
 months since I was brought to bed,
 I have not been out of my room yet;
 but as my spirits are good, I hope my
 strength

strength will soon come; though, between you and me, as this is the first, I should be horribly frightened if I was to find myself in the same condition again. The day after I was brought to bed, a Russ nobleman came to see Mr. R—, and insisted on seeing me; he came into the room for a minute, made his compliments, and gave me a ducat, which he could not omit, if they fancy either the woman or the child will die, if they did not do it. This would have diverted me, if I had not been more dead than alive at that time. But I am really quite tired, and so must you; so adieu, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XVI.

Petersburgh, 1733.

Dear Madam,

I AM now set down to tell you strange stories of Turks, Tartars, and Chinese ; for here are ambassadors arrived from all those places. The Turk speaks French, and visits all the other ministers, which no others of his country ever were allowed to do ; but he said, if the court thought to hinder him, they might depend on the Russian minister's being so served at Constantino-ple. He dined with us not long since, and drank wine, when his servants were withdrawn. Some of the company drank the health of a famous beauty

G

in

in Paris: he said, with all his heart,
"Car elle est fort de mes amies." He has
 a fine person, has a great retinue, and
 all very well dressed, with the lively
 sallies of a Frenchman in conversation.
 The Tartars are odd figures; their
 faces are almost quite flat, and the flatter
 they are, the greater beauty: here
 is one of their princes with his wife
 and children, to put himself under her
 majesty's protection against the insults
 of some of his neighbours. They are
 Mahometans, and are very mean.—
 They really eat horses, for I have seen
 three or four carried into their house at
 a time for their provision. The Chi-
 nese, as to their persons, are very like
 their pictures of them. The day they
 had their audience (which was in the
 morning) there was a ball at court;
 when it was begun, they were brought
 into the room with their interpreter;
 they seemed to observe every thing with
 an.

an air of curious rather than ignorant people. Her majesty asked the first of them (for there are three) which he thought the prettiest woman there? He said, "It would be difficult in a star-light night to say which star was the brightest." Thus observing she expected him to say which he thought so, he bowed to the princess Elizabeth; "among such a number of fine women, he thought her the handsomest; and if she had not quite so large eyes, no-body could see her and live!" Thus every country has its beauty; for our taste she has remarkably fine eyes... Her majesty asked him, of all the things they saw, that differed from their own customs, what appeared the most extraordinary?—He answered, "Seeing a woman on the throne." Soon after this they were brought to a masquerade at court;

and were asked, if it did not appear odd to them? They answered, "No, for all was masquerade to them." They were introduced to all the foreign ministers, and told from what princes they came. When they came to Mr. Rous they said, "They knew the English natives, for there were several of them in their country," and called him "brother." Not long ago, as he and I were walking in the garden of the summer palace, they were brought to see the gardens; when we met them, they embraced him, and one of them opened a little purse that hung by his side, and gave me a bit of black stuff that looked like Japan earth, but it is essence of bohea tea. They told Mr. R., "they thought that the English had been wiser than to suffer their wives to come out and be at liberty, but they were glad they had seen me,"

" as

as they had never seen an English woman before, and they knew I had love and courage to come so far from my own country for any man upon earth. An ambassador from Persia is soon expected; and if I can manage to pick a bit of the manner of every one of these different people, an excellent figure I shall make when we have the pleasure to meet. But none of these have so much surprised me as the Polish minister did. When he made his first visit, he ran up to me, and, as I thought he was going to kill me, was considering if he would not beat out my teeth, he ran with such violence, but he stopped short, and stooped in such a way that I clasped both my hands to my petticoats, and really both he and I were out of countenance; and as Mr. R— betrayed me, it has caused much mirth.

I wish any thing would raise your curiosity enough to bring you here for a month, but your fears are stronger than your curiosity; so I can only assure you this way, that I am, &c.

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well, and that you are enjoying your life. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well, and that you are enjoying your life. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.

LET.

LETTER XVII.

Peterburgh, 1734.

Dear Madam,

I Thank you for the patterns; they are very well done, and I perfectly understand the directions, how to fling the shade to make pillars look fluted. I do not wonder at your surprise, when you think I am going to undertake such a piece of work, but though I love work, very well (which has been a happiness to me, as it has beguiled many a lonely hour) yet I should not think of so large a piece: it is for the countess of Biron, who has many hands to employ in it. She is a great lover of embroidery, and hearing I had some pieces of my own work, desired to see them; and she sends

for me two or three times a week to work. This has two things attending it, that give me pleasure; one, that it is of advantage to Mr. R— in the station he is in; and the other, it gives me an opportunity of seeing the gazette in a way that could be done no other wise; for she comes always into the room while we are at work. As her apartments join to the countess's, she goes and comes several times in an afternoon, and will be taken no notice of by our rising. She sometimes sits down at the same frame, and works with us. She asks me many questions about England, particularly of the queen. She says, "she has so earnest a desire to see her, that she would meet her half way." She seems pleased when I try to speak Rufs to her, and is so gracious, when I speak, as to teach me when at a loss; which is oftener than otherwise;

otherwise; for I speak very little, but understand most of what passes, and have great pleasure in observing so much humanity in one who has such despotic power. There are generally five or six ladies, and one or two gentlemen, in the room, when she is there, who converse in a familiar manner; in which conversation though she joins, as an equal, she still preserves her dignity, but so as to dissipate all awe. I have often seen her melt into tears at a melancholy story, and she shews such unaffected horror at any mark of cruelty, that her mind to me seems composed of the most amiable qualities that I have ever observed in any one person; which seems a particular mark of the goodness of providence, as she is possessed of such power. Were I speaking of a private person, I should say, she had rather strong good sense than wit, tho' she

has

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 This has two things attending it that
 give me pleasure; one, that it is of ad-
 vantage to Mr. R— in the station he
 is in; and the other, it gives me an op-
 portunity of seeing the czarina in a
 way that could be done no other wise;
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 while we are at work. As her apart-
 ments join to the countess's, she goes
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 goodness of providence, as she is posses-
 sed of such power. Were I speaking of a
 private person, I should say, she had ra-
 ther strong good sense than wit, tho' she
 otherwise ;

has

the case, as I am married. But were I free all the frightful scenes would happen. **THE END** my tears have formed, if he is obliged to go, it will be easy to me to share them with him, and though his tenderness **Petersburgh, 1734**

Dear Madam,

THE **ALL** your mind is formed with all the requisites for friendship. I am quite convinced, but am fully persuaded it was not calculated for love, or else you would not wonder at my resolution of following **Mr. R** to the camp, if he is obliged to go. I foresee all the inconvenience that your friendship has made you pain in the strongest light, may as I have not that fortitude you possess, every dangerous or dreadful object is doubled to my weak mind and strong apprehensions, and I feel myself in a condition you only suppose may be the

the case, as I am married. But were I sure all the frightful scenes would happen that your friendship and my fears have formed, if he is obliged to go, it will be easy to me to share them with him, and though his tenderness will not let him ask it, yet the knowledge that my company will be agreeable to him would lead me through any thing, but not gratifying that desire his fondness only expresses, therefore as my resolution is fixed, I will leave this subject, for time to show the event, and assume a style more proper to entertain. We have lately had a birth-day, which (though it happens every year) has afforded more amusement than things of that nature generally do. It was celebrated in the new hall that is just finished, which is considerably larger than St. George's hall at Windsor. Though the day was very

very cold; the stoves kept it warm enough; and it was decorated with orange-trees and myrtles, in full bloom: these were ranged in rows that formed a walk on each side of the hall; and only left room for the dancers in the middle. The walks on each side gave the company opportunity to sit down sometimes, as they were hid from the presence of the sovereign. The beauty, fragrance, and warmth of this new-formed grove, when you saw nothing but ice and snow through the windows, looked like enchantment, and inspired my mind with pleasing reveries. In rooms adjoining were coffee, tea, and other refreshments for the company, and when we returned into the hall, the music and dancing in one part, and the walks and trees filled with beaux and belles, in all their birth-day finery, instead of the shepherds

Herds and nymphs of Arcadia, made
 me fancy myself in Fairy-land, and
 Shakspeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*
 was in my head all the evening. What
 poetical images would this scotch have
 inspired you with ! But that talent is
 so much your own, that none can
 think or write like you. I have now
 got a little cot in the country, which
 is a vast delight to me, for here we
 are free from that constraint which al-
 ways attends a court, and the company,
 or more properly the people, that we
 cannot avoid seeing in town. We
 have one English family with whom
 Mr. B. has contracted a great friend-
 ship ; I say, *he* has, for they are *two*
 brothers, whose conversation and un-
 derstanding would make their ac-
 quaintance courted in England. They
 often go down with us. The house
 is built of wood, and has only a little
 hall,

hall, with the parlours on one side of it, and a kitchen and offices on the other, with four bed-chambers, and closets above. It stands on a rising ground, that leads with a natural green slope to a fine meadow, which is terminated by the sea; behind it is a wood of many miles, of birch and fir. There is no art or cultivation about it; for the uncertainty of this country would make that expense ridiculous, and as it is rural without, it is rustic within; the tables furnished with delft, and the beds with white callico, rush chairs, and the rest in proportion. One parlour is furnished with books and maps; those, and my frame for embroidery, are the only things that make it differ from a farm. Here we spend three days in a week very agreeably. Mr. R— reads to me, and I work, while our cows, sheep,

"Sheep, and poultry feed around us,
 and are so tame they come close to the
 windows. Had we such a retreat
 near you, that I might have a friend
 of my own sex, as he has two of his,
 how should I despise all grandeur!
 But 'till that can be, I have in him the
 confidence of friendship and the ten-
 derness of love; and while heaven
 spares me this friend and lover, I shall
 be happy in all vicissitudes of fortune,
 and truly, &c.

M

LET-

LETTER XIX.

Petersburgh, 1734.

Dear Madam,

YOU seem so rejoiced at hearing I
 am not to carry a knapsack, or fol-
 low a camp, that you imagine it must
 give me a more than ordinary flow of
 spirits, or you would not insist on a
 particular description of the rejoicings
 for the taking of Dantzick so long
 after they are over; for it is now very
 cold, and the weather then was very
 hot*; so the entertainments then were
 bold. The Russians under count Munich, as allies
 to King Augustus of Poland, laid siege to Dant-
 zick in April 1734. The French troops engag-
 ed under it, commanded by M. de la Moignon-
 gaudier, capitulated June 17, and the Dantzi-
 ers June 15, on condition of acknowledging king
 Augustus

in the garden of the summer-palace. The ladies were dressed in stiffened bodied gowns of white gauze with silver flowers; their quilted petticoats were of different colours, as every one fancied. I was pleased with a gentleman's description of a lady; on my not knowing which he meant, he said "*Celle-là avec le cotillon rouge.*" ["That in the red petticoat."] On their heads was only their own hair, cut short, and curled in large, natural curls. Augustus as king, pardon of that prince and her czarish majesty, and paying two millions of crowns as cood Munich, the city to be there, soon continued in her privileges. King Stanislaus withdrew the night before the capitulation, and, in the disguise of a peasant, passed over the inundations in a small bark, and, wandering on foot for six leagues, came safe in a waggon to Maastricht. An account of his escape was soon afterwards published from a letter written by himself to cardinal Fleury.

curls and chaplets of flowers. The empress and the imperial family dined in a grotto that faced a long walk terminated by a fountain, and inclosed on each side by an high hedge of Dutch elms. There was a table the whole length of the walk, which joined at one end to her's in the grotto. Over this long table was a tent of green silk supported by voluted pillars, which had wreaths of natural flowers twisted round them; between these pillars, in the niches of the hedges, were the side boards, the whole length of the table, on each side; one furnished with plates, the other with china; the gentlemen drew tickets for their partners, and every man sat by his partner at table, so that a man and a woman sat all the way. There were three hundred people at table, and six hundred dishes in a course: two courses and a desert.

And

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After

After dinner the company separated into parties, and amused themselves in the garden till the cool of the evening, when the garden was finely illuminated, and the ball began under the same tent where we dined. The voluted pillars being illuminated had a very pretty effect. The music was placed behind the high hedge, so that it appeared as if the deity of the place supplied that part of the entertainment. When the ball was begun, the French officers who were taken at Dantzick, were introduced. I own, I thought this so cruel, that I got near enough to observe their behaviour on so delicate an occasion. Their leader, count de la Motte, was a fine person of a man, about fifty five, grave and manly in his whole deportment. He looked as if he had a fault that felt his disgrace, and despised the insult. After they had all killed

her majesty's hand, she addressed herself to this leader, and said, "he might wonder she chose to admit them to her presence just at that time, but that his countrymen had used her subjects very ill, who had the date to be taken by them; that she had it now in her power to revenge it; but that this mortification was all that she would take; and as the French were polite, she hoped some of the ladies might have charms enough to lessen even this." She then called to several ladies, who, she knew, spoke French, and desired them to do all they could to make those gentlemen forget they were prisoners, at least for that evening; and while they were in her presence, they had their swords on parole. As my curiosity had longed to see the Russian women in a Russian frigate, which occasioned this surprisal.

placed

placed themselves here. I was the first to
 virgin for spoke, and so had the first
 of them to entertain, when according
 on the gallantry of his country, bowed
 to her, and said, "her majesty had
 found a way doubly to conquer them:
 first, he hoped, Mons. Munich would
 give them the justice to say, they sub-
 stituted their persons, unwilling to
 shew his valour, but they now submitted
 their hearts with pleasure to those
 fair conquerors." As I am still weak,
 it was lucky for me that his age made
 him decline dancing, so that the even-
 ing passed in chat, in which he shewed
 good sense, politeness, and a great deal
 of sprightliness, but a pretty strong
 dash of that redundancy of rhetorical
 expression so inherent to his country,
 especially in their conversation with
 women. He expressed great surprise
 at the magnificence of this court, and

its politeness. And indeed they are treated with great civility, have the court coaches to carry them about the town, and are shewn every thing generally shewn to strangers. I obtained leave for him, and as many of his companions as he thought fit, to dine with me, he brought four of the twelve that are in this city. But, I fancy, by this time, you with the world have done with the French, and, in plain English, bid you farewell. And, in answer to what I heard I was admiring at as a subject of the Great Turk, I should tell you that I often visit the Princess Elizabeth, and that she has done me the honour to call at my house and say, "Has the tent? the greatness of soul? how does the best another upon the throne?" You think it easy to answer all these things, but I have not

LET-

are indeed they are
treated with great civility, have the
court comes to assist in the
town, and are shewn every thing gene-
rally shewn to strangers. I obtained
leave for him, and as many of his
Peterburgh, 1735.

Dear Madam,

YOU are possessed with such a man-
nifactive spirit, that you do not
give fair play to Is it not hard that I
may not afterwards find my turn?
And, in my conscience, if I were to
hear I was admitted to an audience of
the Great Turk, you would expect
I should tell what passed there. You
hear I often visit the princess Elizabeth,
and that she has done me the honour
to call at my house, and you cry, "Has
she sense? has she greatness of soul?
" how does she bear another upon the
" throne?" You think it easy to an-
swer all these things; but I have not.

I E L

your

your penetration. She does umbel the
honor to admit my visits frequently,
and sometimes feeds for indulgence to
civilities with, and have a inclination
for her, and of fondness in my heart,
that make the visit to her a thing of
pleasure, not of ceremony. She has
an affability and sweetness of behaviour
that insensibly inspires love and re-
spect. To the public she has an unaffected
gravity, and a certain air of gravity,
that seem entirely to possess her whole
mind; but in private, I have heard
her talk in such a strain of good sense
and steady reasoning, that I am persua-
ded the other behaviour is a feign, but she
seems easy. I say seems, for who knows
the heart? In short, she is an amiable
creature, and though I think the throne
very worthily filled, yet I cannot help
wishing she were to be the successor
at least. The princess Anne, who is
belov'd looked

looked upon as the presumptive heiress, is now of an age from which something might be expected, especially as she has had so good an education. But she is neither handsome nor genteel, and her mind has not yet displayed any very striking qualities. She is very grave, seldom speaks, and never laughs; which to me is very unnatural in one so young; and, I think, her gravity rather proceeds from stupidity than judgment. This is ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~the~~ ^{not} ~~case~~ ^{not}, for you do not consider how easily she might be changed to satisfy your curiosity, and durst not venture this by the posts. I have been engaged for some days in conversation with a Swedish lady, who was taken prisoner by the Tartars; she has lived eighteen years amongst them, and is just now come back for her history, as I had not from herself, is as follows. She was the wife of a Swedish captain, was taken

prisoner

prisoner with her husband by the Rus-
sians, and was sent, with him and se-
veral others, to Siberia. On the road,
being attacked by a party of Calmuck
Tartars, the prisoners joined with their
guards to prevent a second captivity.
In the engagement her husband was
killed, and those that were left alive
were taken; their conquerors divided
their booty; and separated the prison-
ers. She, and a Russian, who spoke
the Calmuck language, were carried off
by the Tartars; one of them liked her
so well as to make love to her, and
made the Russian his interpreter, but
when intreaty would not prevail, he
attempted force. She at last bit a
piece of his buff his bosom, for which
he would have beat her, but was dis-
suaded by his companion. In a few
days they arrived at the tent of their
kan, or king, where this man raised
his

his companion on his adventures with
 his female captive; she soon loved her
 her and her Buss in the place, and asked
 her why she refused the man he offered
 you, and seemed to wonder at her deli-
 cacy of sentiments in having a choice
 of a lover, but told her again it was the
 custom of her country and nobody should
 force or molest her, and gave her some
 of his wives (for he had two) she
 asked her if she could work, and she
 showed her a purse she had worked
 with which she was wonderfully pleas-
 ed, kept her to work at her needle, and
 treated her with great tenderness. They
 gave her meat of all sorts, and were
 diverted to see her dress it, for they
 eat all their meat raw. Fortune bringing
 a man of her own nation a prisoner to
 the same place, he taught these Tartars
 several useful arts, and at last he found
 ed cannon, which, as they were at war
 with

[1110]

with the Chinese, was so great a piece of service, that they gave him his liberty, and, at his request, her's also; and they have been married here, and are preparing to go to Sweden. As you love novelty, what should you think of visiting this kan, who appears to me a fine fellow? I leave you to consider of it, and am, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXI.

Dear Madam,

I Here send you a book that contains a history of all the different nations of the Tartars, which will satisfy your curiosity better than I can on that subject, as I know little of them, and have not read the book. I once mentioned to you a Tartar prince and his family, who came to seek protection; * they are converted to Christianity, and were publicly christened at court. As I have once told you the ceremony of a Russ christening, † you may think it odd it should be done in public, but zeal and superstition carry people great

* See Letter XVI. p. 21. † See Letter III. p. 17.

sing this and should have perceived the
 truth in the faults (if not in the virtues
 of the person) for the latter may have
 some of them; but I, myself, should
 do think of a great prison and of a
 education, because I with few things
 the strongest; but I could not bring
 myself to think, but that, before so
 (but not in an assembly, the ladies, at
 least should have had some other robe
 beside that of righteousness. Not so
 have any more reproaches, that, "I
 " never tell you any thing but what
 " you directly ask after;" I am going
 to give you the history of a Russian
 trial, as I have already done of a
 christening and a wedding. The only
 one I have seen was of the youngest
 daughter of prince Menzikoff, who
 was recalled from banishment, with
 her brother, by the present emperor
 and by her married to count Goltz-
 Biron,

When, you got back to the Duke
 and Countess. She died in childbirth,
 and was buried with great pomp. Af-
 ter the company had for some time,
 they all went into the room to the
 corpse. The coffin was open; she was
 dressed in an undress, as she died in
 that condition (otherwise, as they told
 me, she would have been full-dressed)
 in a night-gown of silver tulle, tied
 with pink ribbon; on her head a sil-
 ver lace mob, and a coronet, as princess
 of the Roman empire; round her fore-
 head was tied a ribbon, embroidered
 with her name and age; in her left
 arm lay the child, who died a few mi-
 nutes after its birth, dressed in silver
 tulle; in her right hand was a roll of
 paper, which was a certificate from her
 confessor to St. Peter. When all the
 company were ranged in the room, her
 servants came to take their leave of
 her,

her; the inferiors first: they all kissed her hand, and the child, asked her pardon for any crime they had committed, and made the most terrible noise imaginable, rather howling than crying. After that, her acquaintance took their leave, with this difference, that they kissed her face, and made a hideous noise, though not so bad as the others. Then came her relations, the most distant ones first, when her brother came, I really thought he would have pulled her out of the coffin. But the most moving scene was the husband, who had begged to be excluded this dismal ceremony, but his brother thought he ought to comply with the Russ custom; lest, as he was a foreigner, it should be deemed a slight. He was brought from his own apartment by two gentlemen, as supporters, and they were really, in this case,

case, more for use than show. He had true sorrow painted in his face, but silent sorrow. When he came to the door of the room where the corpse lay, he stopped and asked for some hartshorn, which when he had drank, and seemed to have armed himself, he advanced to the side of the coffin, and there fainted; when he was carried out of the room and recovered, the corpse was carried down and placed in an open chariot; a great train of coaches followed, and as a general officer's wife, a party of guards. She was carried to St. Alexander's monastery to be buried, and though the coffin-lid was put on as the corpse passed the streets, it was taken off again when it came into the chapel, and the same ceremony of leaving was taken over again, except by the husband, who was carried home in a second fainting fit, the moment the

her; the inferiors first: they all kissed her hand, and the child, asked her pardon for any crime they had committed; and made the most terrible noise imaginable, rather howling than crying. After that, her acquaintance took their leave, with this difference, that they kissed her face; and made a hideous noise, though not so bad as the others. Then came her relations, the most distant ones first; when her brother came, I really thought he would have pulled her out of the coffin. But the most moving scene was the husband, who had begged to be excluded this dismal ceremony, but his brother thought he ought to comply with the Russ custom; lest as he was a foreigner, it should be deemed a slight. He was brought from his own apartment by two gentlemen, as two porters, and they were really, in this case,

case, more for use than show. He had true sorrow painted in his face, but silent sorrow. When he came to the door of the room where the corpse lay, he stopped and asked for some hartshorn, which when he had drank, and seemed to have armed himself, he advanced to the side of the coffin, and there fainted; when he was carried out of the room, and recovered, the corpse was carried down and placed in an open chariot, a great train of coaches followed, and, as a general officer's wife, a party of guards. She was carried to St. Alexander's monastery to be buried, and though the coffin-lid was put on as the corpse passed the streets, it was taken off again when it came into the chapel, and the same ceremony of leaving was taken over again, except by the husband, who was carried home in a second fainting fit, the moment the

very fair complexion, is tall and slender, fifty-four or five, has a handsome face, very agreeable and pleasant in all his motions. He dances well, and is one of the most gallant men of this court.

Petersburgh, 1735.

Dear Madam,

THE idea you have formed of count Munich * is very wrong. You say "you suppose him an old man, with all the savage look of a weather-beaten soldier;" but he is now about thirty. This brave officer, distinguished as he has been both in the cabinet and the field, having been highly favoured by the prince of Moscow, and instrumental in procuring the regency, experienced the reverse of fortune (common to his empire, by being banished to Pelym in the province of Tobolsk in Siberia, on the accession of the princess Elizabeth on his death, however, he was recalled by the emperor Peter III. in 1762, and being with him at Oraniembaum, when the emperor abdicated, he marched

fifty-four or five, has a handsome face, very fair complexion, is tall and slender, and very genteel and graceful in all his motions. He dances well, has youthful airs in all his actions, is one of the most gallant men of this court amongst the ladies, and when he is with our sex, affects a gaiety and ten-

In 1767, he marched against him, gave that unfortunate prince, at that critical emergency, the only advice which could possibly have saved him, which was to go boldly and meet the emperor, and to charge the guards, on their allegiance, to obey his orders as their sovereign, offering to lose his life in his defence. But Peter had not sufficient magnanimity of mind either to perceive the absolute necessity of this conduct, or to embrace it instantly. On the contrary, consulting only with his advisors, he threw himself on the ground, burst into all the impotence of tears, and only conditioned for his life and his paternal dominions in Holstein. *Wassall's Town through some of the northern parts of Europe.* Count Marisch died at Petersburg in 1767, aged 87.

termed that are to me very disagree-
 able, because they are affected, and
 though he has all the advantages of
 person, he has still the German stiffness,
 and to see a man of that cast attempt
 the flutter of a *petit manna*, is like see-
 ing a cow frolicksome. If you were
 in company with this man, who has
 been seen in the papers as slaying his
 thousands and ten thousands, how
 would you be surprised to see him
 hearken to your voice with dying eyes,
 on a sudden snatch your hand, and kiss
 it in raptures! But how much more
 would you be surprised to find he
 thought it necessary to do so to all wo-
 men! As to the rest of his character,
 as a soldier he is enterprising and rash,
 and as he has often been successful in
 his rash attempts, he is now grown fond
 of them, and has no consideration how
 many men he sacrifices to his ambi-
 tion;

the fashion, and next to the duke of Courland, he seems to be a favourite without a competitor, now the prince of Hesse Homburg * is absent, who has been kept, by his contrivance, in some command at a distance from the court for two or three years, but in no place where he can do any actions that can make any noise. Their characters are so different, that it is no wonder that they cannot agree; for the prince is quite a foldier in every look and action, but with humanity, good breeding, affability, and blunt sincerity.— He seldom dined or supped, while he was here, without company, which was mixed, as to the professions, of those of his own sex, and generally some of

In consideration of the great share which this prince had in the revolution which set the princess Elizabeth on the throne in 1741, that empress immediately declared him veldt-marshal-general of her armies.

ours

ours among them, to whom he behaved with politeness without affectation. At court his quality obliged him to dance, which he does with a good soldier-like air, and rallies his own want of pretty airs very agreeably. He is adored by the troops, and loved and esteemed by every body. In his person he is strong-made, and has a good air—but you actually make me do things that fright me; for asking an account of a country, or the characters of people, of me, is as out of the way as to consult a minister of state about the making of your gown; therefore, though I tell you things as they appear to my weak judgment, be not surprised to find that judgment wrong; but if your indulgence can make you find any amusements in my rhapsodies, it will flatter the utmost ambition of;

LET

their original, the rank they now hold
being equal, as they are both wives
of foreign ministers. **LETTER XXIII.**
The one is the daughter of a
French general who was a refugee in
England, the other was born

Dear Madam,

I am very sorry you mentioned to
Madam S— your having a corre-
spondence here with me, since it has
produced an order from the court to
enquire into the feuds between two
ladies, that I could never have ima-
gined would have had any other conse-
quence than making the rest of the
court merry at their expence, and
when madam L—'s friends wrote to
her about it, I dare say she never
thought she would mention it, at least
in that place. To let you into the
affair, it will be necessary to give you
an account of these two ladies from
their

their original, the rank they now hold being equal, as they are both wives of foreign ministers, residing at this court. The one is the daughter of a French general, who was a refugee in another service, when she was born. A man of the highest distinction had her first favour, and after some time he married her to her present husband, and employed him in his present post. The other was a tradesman's daughter of Hamburg, and being an only child, married a count, who wanted money as much as she did a title. As she was quite unacquainted with the manners of the court at her first coming. Hither, the other lady, who had always been bred in one, gave her all the countenance and help she could; but as the friendship of two beauties seldom lasts long, so it happened in this case; each thought

the

she had a right to all hearts, and the desire of having the most admirers so plainly appeared in both, that it soon drew several gentlemen to each party. That, as is usual in those cases, soon raised envy in each of them, which shewed itself in coolness at first, and then in little satirical speeches and actions on both sides. At last, as they were at a public entertainment, in a large company, where there was a gentleman each had a mind to captivate, the pique was so strong, that the counters could not help saying some very sharp things, which the other answered with so much coolness and contempt, that she gained the point she aimed at, putting her adversary quite in a passion: and then she could only say, "What a strange world we live in!" The other replied very calmly, "It is very true, madam, the world is
"odd,

"odd, and has been so ever since
dryers have thought themselves du-
cats." At this the poor countess
burst into tears, and ran from the
table. I fancy you will be as much
at a loss for the wit of this speech as
I was, till I tell you the countess's
maiden name was "Dryer," and that
a coin of the value of half a farthing,
at Hamburgh, is called "a dryer."
This occasioned an open war, which
was carried so far, that the partizans
of each lady appeared even at court,
and all other places, in the favourite
colour of the fair one whom they
obeyed, and were distinguished by the
name of "the grey" and "the red re-
giments." So after they had ex-
posed themselves, and diverted every
body, the poor countess lost ground,
so fast that she dropped the conten-
tion, and indeed was not fit to begin.
it,

it, for she could not keep her temper, while the other was calm and not to be ruffled, and therefore had composure enough to say the most cutting things with great good manners, and seeming good temper. She has indeed more ready wit, both good and ill-natured, than any one I have observed, and the very management of this ridiculous contest gained her many admirers, which was the thing contended for, and if I was not kept in awe by your severe virtue, I should tell you, I love her, but hope you will indulge me so far as to think it no harm to enjoy such agreeable conversation without enquiring into the person's conduct. Thus I have given you the best account I can of this silly affair, which it would have been unpardonably ill-natured to repeat, but by command; and
the

[P 129]

being obliged to tattle so much scandal has made me too stupid to say anything more than that plain truth which I always do with the same cheerfulness that I hope you receive it, that

I am, &c.

ad

K

LET-

[130]
[131]

blame her for concealing his faults,
may for not feeling he has any. If she
can help it. As she is fully convinced
that you can influence her aunt, and
that you would like her to, you know

Peterburgh - 1785

Dear Madam, I have a great deal to say in your case,

YOU almost make me afraid to
open your letters, for fear of
that particular order not to answer
what you say, but tell you what I
observe here: for you say, "You tell
me all that passes among my friends
in England, so I need ask no ques-
tions." But I have caught you tri-
pping, as the inclosed will shew you;
for you have never mentioned the
youthful indiscretion of this poor girl.
If she represents the thing impartially, I
think she has hard usage; for though
her marrying this man might be a
foolish, yet how she has done it, who can
blame

Yours truly
K

blame her for concealing his faults, nay for not seeing he has any, if she can help it? As she is fully convinced that you can influence her aunt, and that you would serve her if you knew her case, I have sent you her own account of it, as I should do her injustice to offer to tell it in any words but her own. I have told her I have done so, and suppose she will wait on you; but, I fear, her judgment is not so strong as her expressions are sprightly, for you make small allowance for inclinations. "Prudence," you say, "should govern all our actions," and you expect that every mind should be capable of that desirable qualification, as early as your's was; but you will find few such examples, and should you abate of your usual severity in this case, I doubt your prevailing with her aunt, for I fancy she is more

angry at finding she dared run the hazard of disobliging her, than at the consequences that may attend it. This young thing was left to her care, and was to obey her, and the least attempt she had made towards being independent must have piqued her pride; and when that passion is roused, reasoning inflames it the more. Did I think her capable of any real concern for her niece's happiness, I should have some hopes; but, you know, I could never think that lady's mind had any mixture of softness. I wish I may be deceived. I pity this poor young thing, who had, from her infancy, such a wrong indulgence, that the least contradiction was insupportable to her, and the sudden transition from this indulgence to a strict severity, before her years enabled her to think one moment beyond the present time, was very likely to end in

the

the way, it has done. But I have no need to reason with you on this affair, who, I know, will judge rightly of it, and on the good-natured side. As to Mr. M.'s curiosity to know "whether I have been at a Russ bagnio," it merits no reply, but the contempt that ought to be shewn to men of his turn of mind, who fancy they have been witty when they have said an improper thing.

I am sorry you think it necessary to make an apology for recommending any friend of your's to me. Mr. R— desires me to assure you he will use all his interest to get him employed and advanced. A slight cold hindered him from going to court yesterday; so I introduced the young hero to the field-marshal, to whom all military people are first presented: he received him civilly and presented him to her majesty. She said, "he was a pretty boy,

“ and should be employed ;” but added, “ he would want leading-strings “ if he should happen to be in an engagement soon.” I told the feldt-marshal, “ he had a good deal of spirit and ambition ;” he smiled, and said, “ that was visible in his person.” I wish you could have contrived to have made his person look as ripe as his understanding and martial ardour are ; for both Mr. R— and I have stood a good deal of railery on the diminutive effeminacy of “ my hero,” as he is called ; but as he is to be employed, it is no matter by what means. By this time, I doubt, you are quite in the vapours at the stupidity of, &c.

LET-

"and should be employed;" but as
 "he would want leading-strings
 "if he should happen to be in an en-
 "agement too tight for the tight-
 "laced of spirit, and a good deal of spirit,
 "and said, **Peterborough 1745.**

I **Dear Madam,**

I is with great pleasure I tell you
 "our little hero is an officer, though
 "it is in a low rank; yet I hope he will
 "soon advance. The accident of my
 "presenting him at first has been the
 "occasion of his being called "the ladies
 "favourite-marshal;" for Mr. R— told
 "her majesty, that "he was under his
 "wife's protection, being recommend-
 "ed to her by some ladies, who were
 "too scrupulous to write to him:" she
 "answered, "he did well to make me
 "his solicitor for him, but that would
 "not convince her whether he was ca-
 "pable of jealousy, or not; but as
 "safe

"—falls as though he himself in twenty or thirty
 "years might make a great alteration in"
 "his young soldier of fortune, and she
 "had a strong prepossession he would
 "be a field-marshal." This has raised
 the young man to such a flow of spi-
 rits, that he bristles much. When he
 kissed her hand in his regimentals, she
 asked "how old he was," which made
 him blush extremely, and his Yinter-
 preter could hardly be grave when he
 answered, "in ten months he should
 "be sixteen." She smiled, and spoke
 to me in Russian. He was very desirous
 to know what she said, but if I had
 told him, his honour would have been
 affronted; so he is easy with those
 thoughts that he is esteemed a man of
 consequence.

I am surprised to hear you are
 piqued at not succeeding between
 the aunt and niece. Could you be-
 lieve you should? You say, "she
 "talks

"walks with his mistress by his side, and
 "niece, and yet will not challenge reason."
 You are too good a judge of mankind
 not to know that those who talk of af-
 fections, and would have any, do so with
 love and affection cannot be expressed
 any more than they can be concealed in
 words. In that case are useless, but the
 most trifling action is big with mean-
 ing. You likewise expect impossibili-
 ties from the world, for what young
 girl of fifteen, just married to a baro-
 net, can think she ought to submit to
 what he has done an indiscreet thing?
 Nay, I really hope she never will own
 she has, for nothing but his making her
 feel she has done wrong, will urge her
 to do it, which I hope will not hap-
 pen. You are merry with my saying,
 "they are very wise in talking to you
 of husbands and children, which is
 like giving young Miss T. a hint
 to marry, for she is not yet married."

" to make, while the rest of the company are at quadrille;" but you have drawn it upon yourself.

I wish you would be so good as to make me comprehend the wit of the verses, for I am grown so stupid I cannot find it out; but perhaps this frozen climate may be an excuse for the want of judgment in you, &c.

De Quixote, and that every thing turns to an adventure at my approach; for I think I have made you as intimate with my Russian friends as I am myself; but one troubling thing I have to tell you, is, your old friend, Count D—, is here, and is very civil to me. This last circumstance is so very extraordinary, that I almost imagined he had a mind to make love to me; for if love can turn to hatred, why may not hatred turn to love? But I have lately found another motive, which is generally

LET-

“to make, while the rest of the com-
 “pany are at disquille,” but you
 have drawn it upon yourself.

L. E. T. T. E. R. XXVI.

I will not wonder if you would
 make me comprehend the wit of the
 I dispute of now, as I know, for
 cannot find it out, but perhaps this

Dear Madam,

DO you imagine that I am like Don
 Quixote, and that every thing
 turns to an adventure at my approach?
 for I think I have made you as inti-
 mate with my Russian friends as I am
 myself; but one surprising thing I have
 to tell you, is, your old friend, count
 D—, is here, and is very civil to me.
 This last circumstance is so very extra-
 ordinary, that I almost imagined he had
 a mind to make love to me; for if
 love can turn to hatred, why may not
 hatred turn to love? But I have lately
 found another motive, which is gene-
 rally

rally the most prevailing, fear, for,
 not long ago, coming on a visit, and
 finding me alone, he said, "I hoped
 I would never mention the ridiculous
 affair of lady F. and the fringed
 gloves, for it was not true." I said,
 if it was not, he had no reason to
 fear any consequences from it, but
 however it was, he might be easy as
 to me, for I never should once have
 thought of mentioning it. What
 a mean mind this poor mortal must
 have, to imagine I could ever think of
 being so malicious as to expose him to
 ridiculous a light, in a place where the
 story is not known! But I suspect he
 would have been capable of serving
 another so, or he could not have enter-
 tained the thought. I am surprised,
 when I look back, at the many lines I
 have written on this insignificant man,
 when I never thought of consequence
 enough

enough to laugh at, though you will
 at the following story of my usual ta-
 lent of speech-making. Dining, not
 long ago, at a friend's house, the
 whole conversation, all dinner-time, was
 of the odd actions of the king of Prus-
 sia,* and his tall grenadiers. This
 subject was not very entertaining to me,
 and I knew nothing of what had passed,
 but the words "tall fellows" and
 "Bottsdam," (the place where they are
 kept) rung so often in my ears, that I
 was quite glad to see the Prussian mi-
 nister come in; as it broke off this con-
 versation. We went to look at a fine
 set of tapestry; the gentleman of the
 house had just bought, in which was
 a Copied of a monstrous size, which
 the company taking notice of, I just
 then took it into my head to speak
 of. * Frederick II. father to the present king
 and

and said, "it was a Potdam Cupid ;"
and then wondered what raised such a
hoarse laugh, till I saw the poor Prus-
sian at my elbow.

As we are a good deal at our little
rural retreat, I am not expected above
one day in a week at the drawing-room,
so have time to ramble, and last week
went to see a house begun by Peter the
First, but never finished, which is a
pity ; for the plan is very grand ; the
situation is much like that of Peter-
hoff, which I have described to you.*
Her majesty talks of cutting a canal, to
bring large ships up to the city, which
at present they cannot do on account
of the bar ; if she does, this palace will
be the finest in the world, for this canal
will come through the gardens, which
are very extensive, and from the house
you will see first-rate men of war sail

* Letter I. p. 7.

through them. You will say, "this is a pretty project, but how will it be put in execution?" Why, here, in time of peace, the troops are employed in such public works, and when they are begun, thirty thousand men are set to work at once; but as easy as it is, I hope I shall not stay here till it is finished, but have the pleasure in person of assuring you, that I am, &c.

First, but never finished, which is a pity; for the plan is very grand; the situation is much like that of Peterhoff, which I have described to you. Her majesty talks of cutting a canal, to bring large ships up to the city, which at present they cannot do on account of the bar; if she does, this palace will be the finest in the world; for this canal will come through the gardens, which are very extensive, and from the house you will see first-rate men of war sail

LET-

through

LETTER XXVII.

Petersburgh, 1785.

Dear Madam,

YOU are too inquisitive and fond of odd things, for me to hope for pardon, if I should not tell you of a new diversion we have had at court this winter. There is a machine made of boards, that goes from the upper story down to the yard; it is broad enough for a coach, with a little ledge on each side. This had water flung upon it, which soon froze, and then more was flung, 'till it was covered with ice of a considerable thickness.*

* In the appendix to Voltaire's History of Russia, a diversion exactly similar to this is said to be exhibited annually, in the eighth week before

The ladies and gentlemen of the court sit on sledges, and they are set going at the top, and fly down to the bottom; for the motion is so very swift, that nothing but flying is a proper term. Sometimes, if these sledges meet with any resistance, the person in them tumbles head over heels; that, I suppose, is the joke. Every mortal that goes to court has been down this slide, as it is called, and no neck has yet been broken. I was terrified out of my wits for fear of being obliged to go down this shocking place, for I had not only the dread of breaking my neck, but of being exposed to indecency too.

From Easter, which is called the butter-week, may be looked upon as the Russian carnival, and is spent in all kinds of entertainments and T. - - - - -
 ceptiousness. The declivity is there said to be "twenty ells in height."

Our 45th L. - - - - - frightful
 out

I'm afraid to think on without horror,
 and I stayed away some time almost with
 the hopes that somebody would break a
 limb, and put a stop to it; but at last I
 was forced to appear. Somebody cried
 out, "You have never been down," as
 every one was glad their neighbour
 should be served as they had been. I
 was ready to die on hearing this. But
 her majesty said, "my present condi-
 tion made it improper," and so I
 was excused. If you take it in your
 head to come here while this lasts, you
 must be sure to have the same excuse,
 or down you go.

Now to your family affair. One
 would really think you had made very
 few observations on mankind, or had
 not studied the passions (both which
 I think you have done) to hear you
 wonder that you cannot bring either
 of these ladies to make the least con-
 cession.

session. I have already told you it is
 impossible, as, both are piqued in
 pride. Had I thought it would have
 I given you so much trouble, I should
 not have engaged you in it; but, I
 fancy, you, madam, with all your rea-
 son, have a dash of that something
 I called pride in this affair, and are fired
 at not being able, with such a superi-
 ority of understanding, to convince
 I them; why, that is the very reason you
 cannot; for you talk beyond either of
 their capacities, who neither of them
 ever thought more than the chat
 of a card-table, or an assembly; and I
 fancy, as my capacity comes nearer
 theirs than yours does, I can put you
 in a better way than arguing. When
 either of them complains to you of the
 other, join with her, and rail at the ab-
 sent party, and, I dare say, they will both
 fall upon you and unite. This thought

has put it into my head to advise Mr. B— to employ somebody to play this artifice; but I doubt he is too sincere not to despise a conquest gained by art, and therefore would not follow the advice of, &c.

Dear Madam

Y O U have found a way to my
 I only thought of putting into Mr.
 B—'s head, to make me give the
 "rascals of party to out of my
 "way, or else to write to me
 "more," that I might not be
 punished by this means. I think
 and doubts of the success of this
 you know, however, and I shall
 continue to do it if I find it
 is by that means or that the whole
 empire is happy or miserable; that is
 as far as patriotism can contribute
 the first or distance of the last
 There are few more to be said
 LET-

has but it into my head to write Mr. B — to employ somebody to play this
trick, but I thought it is too intricate
not to desire a conduct guided by
wisdom and discretion, and not follow
Peterburgh, 1737.

Dear Madam,

YOU have found a way to take
a severe revenge for the scheme
I only thought of putting into Mr.
B—'s head, “to make me give cha-
“ racters of people so out of my
“ way, or else not to write to me any
“ more;” tho’, in the end, you will be
punished by this command. The duke
and dutchess of Courland (who were,
you know, count and countess of Bi-
ron) continue so much in favour, that
it is by their frown or smile the whole
empire is happy or miserable; that is,
as far as preferments can contribute to
the first, or disgrace occasion the last.
There are so few that one or both these

do not make subservient to them, that they have the whole people at their command. He has a great share of pride, and a great deal of passion, and, when he is in one, vehement in his expressions. When he takes a liking to any one, he is violent in favour and commendation, but not steady; he soon changes, without any reason, and often conceives as strong a dislike as he had a liking before; and when he does so, he cannot hide it, but shews it in a mortifying way. He has naturally a great reserve, but while the fond fit lasts, is very free to the favoured person. He is sincere, for if he either thinks it not proper, or does not care to answer truly, he will give none. He has a contempt for the Russians, which he shews to the greatest of them to publicly, on all occasions, that, I fancy, it

It will one day be his ruin; * though I really believe, his faith to her majesty is inviolable, and he has the good of his country at heart. His dutcheis is haughtiness and four, and has a harshness in her looks and manner, that forbids the respect it would command; that is, in

* This opinion was verified by the event.— By the will of the empress Anne, who died Oct. 17, 1740, the duke of Courland being appointed regent of the empire during the minority of John III. exclusive of his father and mother, the principal lords and prelates murmuring at being under a foreign yoke, annulled this settlement, and named the grand-dutcheis, the young emperor's mother, regent in his stead. The duke of Courland was arrested as an usurper and tyrant, tried in form, and condemned to die, but the new regent mitigated this sentence, and banished him and his family into Siberia. From thence he was recalled after the death of the empress Elizabeth, and restored to his duchy, where he died at Riga, aged 88, in December 1777.

any thing but form ; for, to confess the truth, though I am called a favourite with her, and, I believe, stand as well as most in her graces, I do not feel that in my heart which I call respect ; for the ceremony due to her quality is not what I would describe, though it is called by the name, and she mistakes it herself ; for as she is suddenly so much advanced in station, she is out of her sphere, and thinks that to command respect, is to be haughty. Had she been a private woman, she would have been what Dr. P— calls “ a notable,” and I leave him to tell you what such a one dignified must be. She does not interfere in business, or preferments, but affects the character of giving all her time, that is not taken up in attendance on her majesty, to the education of her children, and work. She has seen little of
the

the world, and is not remarkable for
 great genius, though no fool, and loves
 to cry, "Why life is a wo-
 man, so that's no wonder." It may
 be so, but leave it to the men to make
 the remark. Thus I have obeyed you,
 and dispatched two of the great folks
 in our northern climate, and hope
 (though it is to the best of my judg-
 ment) it will oblige you to forbid any
 more of the same sort, from, &c.

LET-

His own and seeing what will pass
 to the two sides of the same
 and two sides of the same

LETTER XXIX.

they are in a state of
 new and different
 to the same
 no

Peterburgh, 1737.

Dear Madam,

I INSTEAD of taking off any of the
 I ask you imposed upon me, you are
 requiring more. I thought I had given
 a full account of the duke and dutchess
 in my last; but you ask many ques-
 tions about them; which I will answer
 in order. He keeps his post of great
 chamberlain to her majesty, though a
 sovereign prince; and the herls of first
 lady of the bed-chamber; only with
 this difference, since their new dignity
 she sits down in her majesty's presence,
 whenever the princesses do, and, on all
 public occasions, has her hand kissed;

They live in the palace, but have all the same officers of their own that her majesty has, and those of his own subjects, and they attend upon them while they are in waiting; that is, he has a gentleman of his bed-chamber to wait on him, and she has maids of honour to wait on her, and when they go out, their own divities and equipages, which are vastly magnificent. Count Osterman is vice-chancellor of the empire, and all the dispatch of business lies on him, though the duke directs all. He is thought the greatest minister in capacity now in Europe, but as sincerity is a quality not thought generally necessary for that profession, he does not let it hinder his effecting any scheme he undertakes. He is polite, and has a good person, and when he shakes off the minister, is a very entertaining companion. He is a Westphalian

phalian by birth, and came into this country as private secretary to a Dutch admiral then in this service. Peter the First, seeing a paper he had translated into Russ, sent for him, and, on talking with him, that monarch's penetrating genius soon found he had a superior understanding, and took him to himself, raised him by degrees to the post he now enjoys, and married him to a Russ lady, of great beauty, birth, and fortune, though he still continues a Lutheran. He is not covetous, for he is poor, considering the opportunities he has had. He was governor to Peter the Second, and the chief instrument in the ruin of prince Menzikoff; but was near being supplanted by prince Dolghorucki, who was the great favourite of that young monarch, and some people think, his death only prevented the count's ruin, as the favourite

vourite feared his art and knowledge ;
 a proof of which he had seen in Men-
 sikoff's fall. He has been very gal-
 lant, but never cared for the trouble of
 a woman of distinction, so his amours
 have made no great noise. And now he
 seems to regard the sex only in the light
 of more gay and pretty toys, to amuse
 his mind, when he has a leisure
 hour to sing away in trifles and chat,
 than the men, who are apt to talk sense
 when he would only hear nonsense. I
 know you think most of our sex most
 admirably well qualified for that, and
 are convinced that is the case, at least
 with us. He was the chief
 to Point the sword, and the chief
 influence in the death of prince Men-
 sikoff, but was not long supplanted
 by prince Dolgorouki, who was the
 great favourite of the young monarch,
 and found people still the dearer only
 the farther he was from the throne.

LET

LETTER XXX.

Peterburgh, 1737.

Dear Madam,

NO quarter, I find ; so have at you.
To count Osterman are added
two others who compose the cabi-
net-council : the one is prince Czercaskoi * of Russia, remarkable for many
things ; the first (and in most people's
opinion the best) his great riches ; he

* Prince Sunfalci Jacolowitz Czercaskoi, from
the Circassian Cabasda, came to the czar Feder-
ic Iwanowicz. [*swi* signifies *son*] and assisted him
in conquering the country of Circassia, and
the city of Terki. It is the chief Circassian fa-
mily, and almost the richest in Russia, having
near 70,000 peasants. *Appendix to Voltaire's His-*
tory of Russia, Chap. II.

1677

has

has thirty thousand heads in family, who are his slaves, and one only daughter to inherit them; next, for his person, which is some degrees broader than long; his head very large, leaning on his left shoulder; and his belly, which is also large, to the right; his legs, which are very short, always booted, even in the drawing room, at the greatest festivals; and, last of all, for his taciturnity, having, I believe, never spoken more than a certain member of another famous assembly, that you and I know, did in the speech of his that was printed; but his estate and quality made it necessary he should have an honourable employ, and he will certainly not do much, nor confound their council with his eloquence. The other cabinet minister is count Jyagosenki; his person is fine, he has a countenance not of regular features, but great

great majesty, vivacity, and expression ; is tall, and well made. He has a negligence and ease in his manner, that would look like a want of breeding in any other man, but are so natural in him, that every one must think nothing else would become him ; for, with so much ease that every action seems to be by chance, he has a dignity that attracts all eyes in ever so large an assembly, as to the principal figure in it. He has a fine understanding and judgment, and the vivacity, so strongly painted in his face, runs through his whole character ; for, he dispatches more business in one day than most others do in a week. When one only asks a favour of him, if he has good reason, he directly says, " he will not serve you," and for what reason ; if he doubts, he fixes a time to give an answer, and then he says, " he will,"

2

or,

of, "cannot," and for what reason: if he promises he will do a thing that is asked of him, he would die rather than break his word. He always speaks his sentiments, without flattery, to those in high stations; for if the greatest person in the empire did wrong, he would say so as freely, as of the meanest, which, in this country, is so dangerous, that it makes his friends daily tremble for him; but hitherto those in the greatest power are afraid of him, for he censures so justly, but so severely, that every body is in awe. There are very few to whom he professes friendship, though he serves many; but when he does, he is very steady; nothing, but his being convinced of some notorious failing, can move it. He loves to shake off the incumbrance of ceremonies that attend his station, and to dine in a family-

M

way

way with a friend, and in then the most delightful companion one can meet with. One instance of his humanity, I must give, which will let you judge of the man better than all I can say. Dining with us one day, in the way I have above described, (an honour which he often does us, as he professes friendship to Mr. R—; and has always done so to me) I mentioned a poor man (who was under her majesty's displeasure, and had suffered a long confinement) with compassion and concern, lest he should be offended at my talking of business, when he was come here to unbend; but in a moment, he said, “Mother,” (the name by which he always calls me) “I will take care of him, but cannot do it yet.” Three months passed, and I was watching an opportunity to remind him of his promise, which I thought he had forgot, when

(on

(on her majesty's birthday) he came to me, and told me, the man was released and in all his employments again, and added, "I love that compassionate heart of yours, which I have (I know) made easier by helping one in distress; and never be afraid to apply to me, without that diffidence you had on this occasion." - He was a great favourite of Peter the First, who always called him "his eye," for, said he, "if Paul sees a thing, I shall know the real truth as well as if I saw it to myself." But my paper is my monitor to tell you, that I am, &c.

and not more than to the great
L. E. T. T. E. R. XXXI.

proceeded from Mr. B—'s—
 Peterborough 5/13/78

Dear Madam,

I AM strongly tempted to deceive
 you, and tell you, the gentleman
 you are so charmed with is unmarried;
 for, if he were, I fancy you would
 come hither to try to make a conquest;
 but alas! to his sorrow, as well as
 yours, he has got more wife than he
 knows what to do with, and I would
 advise you not to come in his way;
 for, you see, I have some interest with
 him, and will get him to shew you how
 unreasonable and cruel you are in your
 treatment of Mr. B—, and, I am sure,
 you could never withstand his argu-
 ments; therefore, if you have a mind
 to gain the glorious title of old maid,

keep

keep out of his way, for his penetration would soon find that your tyranny proceeded from Mr. B—'s humility, and he would consequently so mortify you, that you would presently dwindle into a wife to the man you have made subservient to you so long.

I must tell you a story of a lady, whose courage I wonder at, without having the least inclination to imitate it. The Polish ambassador and his lady were invited to dinner with a large company, at count Jyagofenki's*, and as he lives on one side of the river, and they on the other, in coming over the ice, it broke, and let her sledge fall in, and she with great difficulty got out, after being up to her neck in water. She went home, and her husband came on, made an excuse for being so late,

* See Letter XXX. p. 159.

and told the accident that had happened to his wife, with great composure; whether from *sang froid*, or joy she had escaped, I leave you to judge; but what surprised me was, that, just as the desert was set on the table, the lady came in, she having new-dressed, and ventured over the river, and did not seem at all discomposed, but danced with us all the night, and then went over the ice again in her way home. The whole company made her great compliments on her courage; as for me, I own I looked on the thing in another light, and thought it such a mark of the levity our sex is attested of, to run that hazard for a ball, that I was sorry it was a woman that did it. Since I have mentioned this lady, I must add something more of her and her country-women. Here have been two more Polish ladies of fashion as well as she: they

they are fine showy women, in their persons, without being beauties, have a graceful mien, great gaiety, but a little stiffness; they all love dancing and singing, and all manner of diversions, and seem to be formed with bodies and spirits that can never tire. They are very agreeable companions for an hour, but are too much for me, for a longer time, who, you know, can flag, especially with people of influence of spirits, if I may be allowed the expression. They are very magnificent in their attendants and dress, but have so much of their national pride, and martial manner, that they lose the softness of our sex. But this observation makes me reflect how much you make me act out of my sphere; for, in short, if the letters I write to you were to be seen, how ridiculous must I appear! But your desires are to me com-

M 4

mands,

mands, and acting as I do, is a stronger proof of my friendship than the repetition of it in every letter; as I am truly sensible of my want of talents for what you require of me, though I will yield to none in what I value myself upon, being truly and affectionately, &c.

regret as I do, is a stronger
proof of my friendship than the re-
sponse I have given to it. I am
sensible of the great value of your
letter, and I shall be glad to see it.
I shall be glad to see it.
-you only I am sure of being able
to do so.

Peterburgh 1737

Dear Madam,

YOUR reprimand is very kind, for
my venturing over the river, after
another had met with such an accident
as I mentioned in my last; but Mr.
H—, when he told you my danger,
should have told the motive: I went to
see a sick, nay dying, lady, who was a
stranger in this country, and who must
have been left, in that condition, to
the care of servants, had I not ven-
tured. And now, I dare say, you agree
with me, that humanity was a stronger
inducement than courage; and thus
this heroic act (like many others) has
little

little in it, when the whole is known. Pray, if you were to walk in the park when crowded, should you be able to name the company that were there? If not, how can you ask me “ what other people compose the court ? ” I have told you those that govern the domestic and foreign affairs ; the rest only fill the circle, and are composed, as in most other courts, of military and courtiers ; though there is a greater difference between these two classes here than in some other courts. The first, in general, have a rough savageness, a stalk in their gait, and a fierceness in their looks and manner, that raise the idea of the dreadful part of their profession, too much, to fancy them fit furniture for a drawing-room ; though, to do them justice, they have it not in their conversation. The others are just such things as mere pretty fellows

lows are every where, viz, nothing dressed fine. In one of my letters,* I described a diversion to you, called "flying," which, I suppose, made you imagine we were all turned rope-dancers and tumblers; now we are, I imagine, to turn dragoons; for the present diversion at court is shooting, both at a mark, and flying; and from this I have not been excused, though I was from the other, but have once shot off a gun, they told me, at a mark; indeed I was so frightened, I did not see it, but can assure you, as great a coward as I was, some of the gay pretty fellows above-mentioned seemed more afraid than I; and, I dare say, had petticoats been exempted from this diversion, would willingly have resigned the breeches to the first female that would have taken

* Letter XXVII. p. 145.

them;

them; and thus far I agree with them, that all women ought to wear breeches that chuse such amusements; But whether beau, rake, or whatever shape I may be put into, I shall be as constantly as in my own, &c.

Dear Madam

2
 I am really
 I think I
 should have
 racters of my
 me believe a
 ver yet do
 if one or both
 chauntly order
 regulate our own
 is plamels as
 than search into
 but as I cannot
 you ask though I
 thing I will suppose

LET-

them, and thus far I agree with them, that all women ought to be governed by the same principles that govern men. **LETTER XXXII.** I have been, taken for a woman, I may be sure, but I shall be content to be so. **Peterburgh, 1747.**

Dear Madam,

SURELY you fancy I am really grown a prude, if you think I should have pleasure in giving characters of my own sex, or would make me believe a thing which I could never yet do, that you were really so; for if one or both of us are not of that haughty order, we shall be content to regulate our own conduct so as to be as blameless as women can be, rather than search into the conduct of others; but as I cannot refuse you any thing you ask, though I may wonder at your asking, I will suppose we are chatting over

over a dish of tea, and giving our opinions of birth-day suits and Brussels lace, and will tell you what, and who, suits my taste, with as little meaning as if I talked of the gown, and not of the woman; and I the more freely do it, as whether I commend or blame, it can have no bad consequence, as the persons of whom I am to speak are all strangers to you, or else even you should not persuade me to give my opinion, though it is of too little weight to disturb or hurt any body. You have already had the best account I can give you of her majesty, the princesses, and the dutchess of Courland. Madam Arcals is governess to the princess Anne; she was born in Prussia, and is the widow of a general-officer; I think, a Frenchman. With him she was in France, Germany, and Spain. Her

person

person is extremely fine, though not
 young; her understanding naturally
 good, and improved by reading; and
 having seen so many different courts,
 in most of which she resided some time,
 her person made people of all ranks
 court her acquaintance, and her un-
 derstanding helped her to improve her
 mind by the conversation her person
 had procured; so that she is fit com-
 pany for a princess or a tradesman's
 wife, and cannot behave improperly to
 either. In private company she never
 loses the politeness of a court, nor at
 court the freedom of a private compa-
 ny, and in her conversation she has a
 manner that looks as if she tried to
 learn something from those with whom
 she converses, though I think there are
 very few but must be improved by her.
 The pleasantest hours I have spent
 since I left you, (in the absence of Mr.
 R—) have been with her, though her
 post

post lets me have less of her company than I wish for ; but when I have it, I never fail of being instructed and delighted. She has an only daughter, who is with her, and who has inherited her good sense and endowments of mind, but not of person ; for, in that, nature has been a step-mother to her ; so she does not say half the bright things that she would do, were she handsome ; but as that may be the reason why one sex thinks she says few good things, it may be so why the other finds out she says a great many. But she herself is this minute come in, *à sans ceremonie*, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXXIV.

Peterburgh, 1738.

Dear Madam,

DO not fancy you could set one woman to talk of another, nay of many others, without having a dash of scandal; at least, before I have got through the task you have set me, you will find that I am like most of my sex on that head. I have just had a visit from a lady who is one of our beauties, wife to a Russ gentleman you remember in England, Mr. Lapuchin. She is one of the ladies of the bed-chamber, and niece to the lady I told you the story of, who was mistress to Peter the First; * but, the scanda-

* Letter II. p. 13; 16.

ious chronicle says, was not so hard to be persuaded out of her virtue. She and her gallant, if he really is one, are very constant, having had a passion for each other many years. She has just now returned a lying-in visit. When she was brought to bed, I wished her husband joy of the birth of his son; the first time I saw him, and asked him how she did? He answered me, in English, "Why do you ask me? Ask count Levenvald; he knows better than I do." And when he saw me quite confounded at this speech, he added, "Why, all the world knows it is true, nor does it disturb me. We were obliged to marry by Peter the Great: at that time I knew she hated me, and she was quite indifferent to me, tho' she is handsome. I can neither love nor hate her, but continue in a state of indifference; so why should I be

"disturbed

“disturbed at her making herself easy
 “with a man she likes, since, to do
 “her justice, she behaves with as much
 “decency as the affair will admit
 “of?” Judge of my confusion, or
 think what you would have done on
 such an occasion. I will tell you what
 I did: I left him abruptly, and talked
 to the first person that came in my way,
 This lady speaks only Russ and Ger-
 man, so our conversation can be only
 of common things, as I speak but little
 of either; therefore I can say no more of
 her than of her person, which is really
 handsome. This, methinks, is all I
 need to have said, but I could not sup-
 press this story, as it appears to me a
 very singular one; though I hate my-
 self for the ill-nature I am guilty of,
 which you will hardly pardon in, &c.

L E T T E R XXXV.

Petersburgh, May 10. 1750.

Dear Madam,

I Am now going to tell you of a lady that I fancy you will be charmed with. She was a noble Venetian by birth, and married an old man, who has been many years settled in this country, though born at Ragusa. He was sent to Venice by Peter the Great, on some affair of consequence, and there married this lady, or rather bought her, for he is immensely rich. She is now five-and-twenty, tall, finely shaped, genteel, and graceful; her features are pretty strong, but she has extremely handsome large black eyes, and her whole person is very like the

descrip-

description I have heard of the Roman beauties. Her old man keeps her very close, and hardly ever lets her stir, but to court, where she constantly appears with all the lustre that the most magnificent cloaths and jewels can give to a very elegant person. She has a great quantity of prodigious fine pearls; so many, that there was a suspicion in some of our sex that they were false, and consequently a strong desire to know if a suspicion, that would have given such delight, were true, or not. It is the mode here to have buffoons of both sexes, who are privileged to do and say a thousand ridiculous things; one of these women undertook to find out this darling secret: accordingly, the next time she saw this lady at court, she talked to her in raptures of her person, and at last pretended to kiss her neck, and

in doing it, bit one of her pearls ; which the lady perceiving, she gave her a box on the ear, and told her, " that was to make her remember that " a noble Venetian never wears false " jewels." The woman surprised at the blow, cried out, and said, " she would " complain to her majesty," who was only in the next room. The lady very composedly answered, " If you did " this by her majesty's orders, you " should have told me so ; if not, I " imagine she will be pleased that I " have corrected your insolence to one " of my quality, without giving her " the trouble of a formal complaint." The woman did not appear for some time, and the affair was hushed up. Now, I fancy, you cry out, " Oh " how I love her spirit !" and long to ask a thousand questions about her ; but as I told you before, she is never seen

seem but at court, where only general conversations, and those low ones, pass ; so I know nothing of her, but what I can judge by this one incident, which, I own, does not seem to me to be of a piece with a woman's having meanness of soul enough to give up her person to age and infirmity for money ; for I am almost of the Scotch parson's mind, who told the girl that had granted her favours for a small sum, that "she had better have done it for God's sake." I make no doubt that they are equally prostitutes, and, I own, that has placed the lady in so contemptible a light with me, that I hardly spoke to her, though I was strongly tempted to be acquainted with her, on seeing this ; for I thought I saw you blaze forth in this action : but I considered you have often told

me, nothing but your partial friendship could make you pardon my tameness, as you call it; so I thought it best to omit it, and without trying to make more acquisitions, rest contented with being, &c.

LET-

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LETTER XXXVI.

Petersburgh, June 20, 1739.

Dear Madam,

I Am very glad you approve of my conduct in not getting acquainted with the Venetian lady, but am a little mortified at your saying, “ you love her, but know I am not fit to converse with her ;” though your sentiments of her want of delicacy in her choice comfort me a little, for I find you only love her because she can resent strongly and instantly. I think she would not melt into tears at a harsh word from a friend, a weakness, I know, you despise.

We are all very busy in preparing for the wedding of the princess Anne
with

with the prince of Brunswick *. I believe, I never told you he was brought here six years ago in order to marry her ; he was then about fourteen, and was educated with her in order to create an affection, but it has, I think, produced a contrary effect, for ~~he~~ ~~she~~ she ~~shows~~ something worse than, hatred towards him, contempt. His person is well enough, very fair, but he has an effeminate look, and a good deal of stiffness, which may proceed from the awe he has been kept in ever since he has been here ; for as the match is so advantageous to him, he has been kept at a great distance. This, and his stammering, make it difficult to judge of his capacity. He behaved gallantly in two campaigns

* This prince was born in 1714, and is next brother to the reigning duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttele. Before his marriage, he was declared generalissimo of all the forces, and stadtholder of the Russian empire.

that he made with feldt-marshal Munich. It is supposed his going was occasioned by a design the duke of Courland had of matching his son to the princess; for upon her shewing such strong contempt to the prince of Brunswick, he thought it would have a better face, and that he might safely offer her an alternative. Accordingly, last week he waited on her, and told her, "he came from her majesty to tell her she must marry, and left her to chuse the prince of Brunswick, or the prince of Courland." She said, "her majesty's commands she should always obey, though in this, she owned, with reluctance; for she had rather be shot than marry either; but if she must marry one, she chose the prince of Brunswick." You will guess, the duke was mortified, and the prince and his dependents as much

much elated; and they now say, her behaviour to him was political, to deceive the duke; but I fancy she will convince them she means no more than that, as her inclinations must be forced, she has this way of shocking the duke, whom she hates; and indeed she loves no-body, but, as she has a strong reluctance to obedience, she hates him most, as he has most power; and yet she is obliged to be civil to him. However, great preparations are making for the wedding, which is to be celebrated with all the pomp possible, and nothing else is talked of. When it is over, you shall have the best account I can give of it, as, I am sure, that will be your command to, &c.

LET-

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LETTER XXXVII.

Petersburgh, July 30, 1739.

Dear Madam,

YOU will have seen by the papers, that our great wedding is now over, and so will expect the performance of my promise. The marquis Botta *, the emperor's minister, took

* Afterwards field-marshal and commander in chief of the Austrian troops at the reduction of Genoa in 1745, which he oppressed with such hard conditions and exactions (though the freedom of that city, as Buonamici informs us, had formerly been bestowed upon his family; and he was also related to many of the citizens) that at length he and his forces were expelled by a general insurrection of the inhabitants. He died at Pavia, being then the imperial vicar in Italy, in January last.

the

the title of ambassador, for three days only, in order to demand the princess in form, in his master's name, for the prince of Brunswick, his nephew. The marquis went out of town on Saturday to St. Alexander's monastery, from whence he made his public entry, as ambassador, into town on Sunday. This was much as all public entries are. On Monday he had his audience, to demand the princess; her majesty stood under a canopy, on a throne raised twelve steps, at the end of the great hall, a great chair behind her, and a table at her right hand, all her lords of the bed-chamber placed on the steps of her throne, and the gentlemen of the bed-chamber in rows at the bottom of the steps, the nobility and foreign ministers on the left all down the hall in three rows, behind each other, and the ladies in the same manner

manner on the right. Neither the princesses, nor the duke and dutchess of Courland, appeared ; but the princess Elizabeth, and her court, did. The ambassador had a great train, and after he had made his bows, mounted the steps of the throne, and put on his hat, while he made his speech, but took it off, when he delivered the letter. The great chancellor answered the speech, and then the ambassador withdrew, and her majesty remained in the same place, and the duke of Wolfenbuttle's minister came and made a speech, and delivered a letter, but at the foot of the throne, and uncovered. During all this there was so profound a silence, that you might have heard a pin drop, except the speeches, which, added to the richness of her majesty's dress, the dignity of her person, and the finery of all the company, made the cere-

ceremony very solemn and magnificent. As soon as the last-named minister withdrew, her majesty went into the long gallery, followed by all the company, who ranged themselves in the same order, and she stood under a canopy, but without a throne. When she was placed, the prince came in to thank her for granting him the princess. He was dressed in a white satin suit of cloaths embroidered with gold, his own fair hair, which is very long, curled, and all loose, and I could not help thinking he looked like a victim. After he had made his speech, she placed him on her right hand under the canopy. The ambassador was then sent for, and placed on her left. Then the great marshal and prince Czerkaskoi * led in the princess, who stopped just before her majesty, and

* See Letter XXX.

she

she told her, " she had given her consent to the prince that he should have her for his wife." On this the princess clasped her hands round her aunt's neck, and burst into tears ; her majesty stood some time with a grave composure, but at length melted into tears also. Thus they continued some minutes ; till at last the ambassador took hold of the empress, and the great marshal of the princess ; her majesty composed herself, and took a ring from the princess, and another from the prince, and changing them, returned hers to him, and his to her. She then tied his picture round her niece's arm, kissed them both, and wished them joy. The princess Elizabeth then came to salute the bride, as she was now called, and embraced her in an agony of tears ; but the empress pulled her away, and

the prince retired to make way for
 others to kiss her hand, she
 while weeping. The prince supported
 her, and really looked a little silly at
 all this passion of tears. As soon
 as all had paid their compliments to her
 majesty withdrew, and all the com-
 pany went home to prepare for the
 wedding the next day. On Tuesday
 all the foreign ministers had a room
 appointed for them to see the pro-
 cession, and another in the church,
 to which they were to go as soon as the
 procession had passed, because the cere-
 monial could not be settled for them to
 be in the procession, as no one could
 submit to have the lowest place. The
 prince went first to the church with
 his court, with no great pomp. Then
 the other began by the coaches of
 the people in posts under the govern-
 ment, and the nobility, their equi-

pages were as fine as could be, both
 coaches and liveries. Each of them
 had ten footmen walking before their
 coach, and some had two running-
 footmen besides, and various whips
 to make a show: one, that I thought
 was as pretty as any, was two running-
 footmen, negroes, dressed in black vel-
 vet, so exactly fitted to their bodies,
 that they appeared naked, only fea-
 thers put on after the Indian fashion.
 After all these were passed, came
 prince Charles, the duke of Cornwall's
 youngest son, in a chariot, with twelve
 footmen walking before, four running-
 footmen, two pages, two hyducs; and
 two gentlemen on horseback. Then
 prince Peter, his eldest brother, in the
 same manner. Then the duke, in a
 most magnificent chariot, with four-
 and-twenty footmen, eight running-
 footmen, four hyducs, and four pages,

all walking before; and, on horseback, his master of the horse, his marshal, and the two gentlemen of his bed-chamber; the two last had each a servant in their own livery attending them. Then came her majesty and the bride, which was a procession of itself, first, came forty-eight footmen, twelve running-footmen, twenty-four pages, with their governor on horseback; second, the gentlemen of the bed-chamber, on horseback, with every one a running-footman, who held the horse by the bridle, and two servants on horseback, one of them with a led horse, each in his own livery; third, the lords of the bed-chamber on horseback, each with two-running-footmen to lead the horse, and four servants with three led horses, in their own liveries, their liveries and furniture of the horse vastly rich; fourth, the master of

of the horse attended by all the grooms, equerries, and riding-masters of her majesty's stables. 5th, The master of the buck-hounds, attended by all the officers of the hunt, in their proper habits. 6th, The under-marshal of the court with his staff. 7th, The great marshal with his staff, each with servants in their own liveries, as the lords of the bed-chamber had. 8th, The chariot, which was made to hold one person backwards, excessive rich, drawn by eight horses; in it the empress sat forward, and the bride backward. She was dressed in a stiffened bodied gown of silver stuff, embroidered with silver, the stomacher all diamonds, her own hair curled, with four tresses twisted with diamonds, and a little coronet of diamonds, and a great many between the curls of her hair, which is black, so that the jewels

O 3 looked

looked well in it. 9th, The princeſs Elizabeth, with her court, which conſiſted of ſeven coaches, and all her men-ſervants in their ſtations, as her majeſty's were, only not ſo many of them. 10th, The dutcheſs of Courland and her daughter, in the ſame chariot, with her court, as the princeſs Elizabeth had. 11th, The wives of the nobility, with coaches and ſervants as each of their huſbands had, who went before the empreſs; the richneſs of all theſe coaches and liveries was inexpressible. They returned from the church in the ſame manner, only the bride and bridegroom came in a chariot together, and his court and her's, joined, attended them next after the empreſs, and every body, except the immediate ſervants of the crown, ſtruck off in order to be in the great hall of the

the palace to receive them. They came in as follows : 1st. The empress, led by the duke of Courland; she had a stiffened bodied gown, (here called a robe) of brown and gold, very rich, and, I thought, very handsome; a great number of pearls, but no other jewels. 2d. The bride, led by the bridegroom, his dress the same as her's, which I have before described. 3d. The princess Elizabeth, led by the prince Peter of Courland. She was dressed in a robe of pink and silver, very fine in jewels. 4th. The dutchess of Courland, led by her youngest son; she had a robe of white sattin, embroidered with gold, very fine in rubies. 5th, her daughter, led by prince Czerkaskoi; she had a robe of flowered silk on a silver ground. When they were in the hall, the ambassador came and

made a compliment of congratulation, and all the foreign ministers did the same; and then all the company. Her majesty dined at a table with only the bride and bridegroom, and the princess Elizabeth; every one else went home very weary, for the procession began at nine in the morning, and the clock struck eight at night as we sat down to dinner. At ten all returned to court, and the ball began, which lasted till twelve; then the empress led the bride to her apartment, and ordered no one to follow but the dutchess of Clouland, two Russ ladies, and the wives of the foreign ministers, whose masters were related to the prince: there were only the emperor's resident and Mr. R—, who had wives of that number, and the emperor's resident's lady was ill, so I was the only one. When we were in her apartment, the empress or-
 dered

dered the dutchess and me to undress the bride; we put her on a white satin bed-gown, trimmed with fine Brussels lace, and then were sent to call the prince. He came with only the duke of Courland, in his night-gown; as soon as he entered in, the empress kissed them both, and in the most affectionate manner took her leave, went in her coach to the summer-palace, and ordered the great marshal to conduct me home, for all the company retired when she carried away the bride. I got home, half dead with fatigue, about three in the morning. All the ladies were in robes, and it is impossible to imagine the richness of every one's dress, though it was in July, when heavy cloaths are very troublesome. —

On Wednesday the bride and bridegroom went and dined with the empress at the summer-palace. She came with

with them, after dinner, at the winter
 one, where every body was invited
 who had been at the wedding, and ap-
 peared in new again, not the same as
 the day before. The bride had a gold
 ground with raised gold flowers upon
 it, edged with a thread of brown, and
 the bridegroom in a coat of the same.
 There was a ball and a supper in the
 great hall for all the company. The
 bride, bridegroom, the princess Eli-
 zabeth, and the Courland family, sat
 at table; but as the empress never eats
 suppers, she walked about all the time,
 and talked to every one with her usual
 affability. The supper was very mag-
 nificent, and a fountain was contrived
 in the hall, which played all the time,
 so that one would have thought it had
 always been there.
 The day was a day of rest, as her
 majesty found that she herself had need
 of

obit as well as every one else. Friday,
 after dinner, there was a masquerade;
 there were four quadrilles, as they are
 called, consisting of twelve ladies each,
 besides the leader of each quadrille.
 The first was led by the bride and
 bridegroom, who were dressed in
 orange-coloured dominos, and little
 caps of the same, with a silver cock-
 ade, and a little laced ruff round the
 neck, tied with the same ribbon; and
 their twelve couples were all dressed
 the same, among whom all the foreign
 ministers and their wives were placed,
 whose masters were related either to
 the prince or princess. The second
 was led by the princess Elizabeth and
 prince Peter, in green dominos, and
 gold cockades, and their twelve couple
 the same. The third by the dutchess
 of Courland and count Solikoff (a re-
 lation of the empress) in blue dominos
 and

and pink and silver cockades. The fourth by her daughter and youngest son, in pink dominos and green and silver cockades. All the rest of the company were in what dresses each thought fit. There was a supper for the four quadrilles only, in the long gallery; the table had benches round it, so placed as to look like a turf bank, and the table the same; the table and benches were covered with moss and flowers, stuck in as if growing, and the supper, though very magnificent, was served to look like a rural entertainment. The empress walked about all the evening unmasked.

On Saturday her majesty and all the company dined at the new married couple's apartment, where was the ceremony of their waiting at table, which

is usual for the bride and bridegroom in that country to do. After dinner there was an opera, at the theatre in the palace.

On Sunday there was a masquerade in the garden of the summer-palace, which was finely illuminated, and set firework in the river, which runs by the side of the garden. Every body dressed to their own fancy, some very pretty, and some very rich ones. And thus ended this grand wedding, from which I am not yet rested, and what is worse, all this rout has been made for two people together, who, I believe, heartily hate one another: at least, I think, one may answer for it, that *Isabella* case, and she shewed it throughout all this week's feasting in a shocking manner, and continues to treat him with the utmost contempt.

when out of the empress's sight, and
beg you will not take lid into your head

* This would almost induce one to think, that
the princess had a pre-sentiment of the unhappy
consequences of this match to herself and family.

Her son, John III, being deposed in his cradle
(as mentioned in a former article p. 111),
she and her husband, were banished to Riga,
where (if living) they have ever since conti-
nued; and their son, unfortunately born heir

to the Russian throne, at length fell a victim,
in 1764, to the jealousy of the present em-
press, being put to death by two officers of
the garrison of Schlüsselburg, where he was
imprisoned, on pretence of an insurrection being
made in his favour, by one Basil Mirowitz,
grandson to the first rebel that joined the famous
Mazeppa. The manifesto published in vindica-
tion of this action, is almost as unaccountable as
the action itself, and is equally repugnant to
common sense and common humanity. Lord
Chesterfield, in one of his letters to his son,
written soon after, expresses himself as follows:

" You ask me what I think of the death of poor
Iwan, and the person who ordered it. You

" may

to ask any more questions about this
 wedding, for I have troubled you with
 a confused heap of stuff already, that
 I am ashamed of; but there was so
 much of it, that it quite fluttered my
 head too much to give a relation of it
 plainer to be understood; nor will my
 head or hand allow me to say more,
 than that I am, &c.

"may remember, I often said she would either
 "murder him or marry him, or both: she has
 "chosen the safest alternative; and has now
 "completed her character of *femme forte*, above
 "scruples and hesitation. If Machiavel were
 "alive, she would probably be his heroine, as
 "Caesar Borgia was his hero." Machiavel be-
 "ing no more, Catherine II. is the heroine of
 Voltaire, who, besides many other eulogiums,
 has styled her, in the dedication of his "Phi-
 "losophy of History," "the protectress of arts
 "and sciences, as worthy by her genius to
 "judge of ancient nations, as she is to govern
 "her own."

"I want and the better who order in
 yam "

THE

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MICHAEL THEODOROWITZ R

Son of Philaretos Archbishop

b. 1596

chosen Czar 1613

d. 1645

2

ALEXIS MICHAELOWITZ,

d.









